



People



Duo set for Matthew Project cycling challenge

Two young women are setting off today (May 10) to cycle the 950 miles from Land's End to John o' Groats in support of the Norfolk-based Matthew Project.

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Viki Barton, aged 25, from Longham near Dereham, lost someone close to her as a result of his alcohol and drug use, but this loss has inspired her to set herself a challenge of cycling from one end of the country to the other to raise money for the Matthew Project, the local Christian charity that supports those with drug and alcohol issues.



Originally Viki planned to do the ride last year, but had to postpone her plans when she was attacked whilst training and had her bike stolen.

After two weeks her bike was found by the police and returned to her but it took several months of getting back to full fitness before she was able to resume her training regime.

Viki hopes to raise at least £500 and will be completing the ride with her friend Zara Day, age 22, who is also supporting the Matthew Project.

Viki said: "The reason for choosing the Matthew Project is that just over four years ago I lost someone very close to me. I have experienced the effects that both alcohol and drugs can have on a person and the heartache that is left behind when they are gone. What the

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workers at the Matthew Project do is amazing and this is a cause very close to my heart.”

Starting at Land's End the girls will then travel up the country going via Fowley, Moretonhampstead, Street, Clun, Runcorn, Slaidburn, Keswick, Moffat, Loch Lomond, Glencoe, Inverness, Crask Inn and finally finishing at John o'Groats. They hope to complete the journey two weeks later on May 24.

As well as the Matthew Project, Viki is also raising money for The Light Dragoons. If you would like to support Viki you can do so by making an on-line donation <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/vikibarton>

To learn about the charity and ways in which you can support, visit www.matthewproject.org

Pictured above is Viki Barton, ready for her epic cycle ride.

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