

Team Bike for Mike take on the London to Paris Challenge raising over £17,000 for skin cancer research

On 4th September Team 'Bike for Mike' cycled to Paris in memory of Mike Telford who died from skin cancer. Daughter Gayle Telford recruited twelve friends to pay tribute to her dad with the hard-core London to Paris cycling challenge, raising some £17,365 so far for skin cancer research.

Gayle explains "As my dad was a huge sports-fan it seemed appropriate to honour his memory with a sporting challenge."



The team of 13 friends included Gayle Telford, 25, from Surrey, brothers Theo Jenkins, 25, and Felix Jenkins, 23, from West Wittering, Fran Andrews, 25, from Reigate, Harry Cullis, 25, from Overton Harry Parnell, 25, from Wiltshire, Henry Webster, 25, and Fred Jacobsen, 25, both from Ashington, West Sussex, Serena Pelly, 25, from Kent, Andy Clegg, 24, from Gloucestershire, Jake Cooper, 25, from Leicestershire, Alex Strachan, 25, from Surrey, and Rich Kearney, 25, from Bristol.



Before the challenge the tightknit team raised money with a series of events including a sports day, pub quiz, cricket match and a concert, leading up to the main London to Paris cycling event which coincided with Mike's birthday.

Training was hard-going with gruelling 35 mile sessions twice a week in preparation for the 200 mile challenge, alongside longer cycles from London to Brighton and Newhaven. The team have been battered and bruised along the way but remained determined to honour Mike's memory.

Of the challenge Gayle said, "The whole thing still feels very surreal but when we saw the Eiffel Tower and our friends and family there cheering us in, it was the most incredible feeling, there were some tears and we were overwhelmed with the support from all our friends and family back home who cheered us on the whole way too with messages and social

media. We all trained so hard and it is nice that it paid off and we have raised a great amount of money to the British Skin Foundation. I will never forget this adventure and felt very lucky to share it with such amazing friends and family!"

Images: Top, Gayle with dad Mike Telford; Middle, the team at the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

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The team at the Eiffel Tower L-R Freddie Jacobsen, Richard Kearney, Gayle Telford, Alex Strachan (in front), Serena Pelly (in front), Henry Webster, Harry Cullis (behind), Harry Parnell, Andy Phillips, Fran Andrews, Felix Jenkins, Jake Cooper, Theo Jenkins.

To support Team Bike 4 Mike please visit
<https://www.justgiving.com/teambike4mike/>

The **British Skin Foundation** is the only UK charity dedicated to raising funds for skin disease and skin cancer research. There are **eight million** people living with a skin disease in the UK, some are manageable and others are severe enough to kill. **Seven** people die every day in the UK from skin cancer. **It Takes 7** is a fundraising campaign set up to raise as much money as possible to fund research into skin cancer.

Skin disease doesn't just affect the skin. It can have a huge impact on a person's day-to-day life, crush self-confidence, restrict movement, lead to depression and put a huge strain on families as well as personal relationships. Our unwavering commitment to funding quality research means we won't stop until we've found cures for common skin problems like eczema and acne through to potential killers like malignant melanoma.

For further information please contact:

lisa@britishskinfoundation.org.uk or call 020 7391 6347

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