

Charity update: and the Sponsored Throw

As you will know, earlier in the year Marc Preston, Colin Woods, Marv Poole, Steven Turnbull, Jason McAvoy and Brendan Robertson decided to do a charity challenge to raise money for Sarah's Promise and the Nicola Murray Foundation. This is Marc's recollection of the trip.

We had a long journey to get to our startpoint in Peru, and travelled via London and Columbia. Our first day was fantastic – a sight-seeing trip of Machu Picchu an incredible citadel high up in the Andes built by the Incas in the 15th century. At this stage we were feeling confident and raring to get going!



Day1 of the cycling was a breeze! This was going to be easy. **The next day, though, was an absolute killer! And the day after was even worse.** The cycling was gruelling, uphill and at altitude. At times we began to doubt that we would be able to finish it. In the evenings we crashed out in tents where we sampled the delicious local cuisine of guinea pig (including teeth!) and enjoyed visits from the local Peruvian beasts (see one visitor below).



On the plus side – the scenery was amazing! Cycling over the top of Cloud Forest and then descending down into the Amazon jungle was the memory of a lifetime. We saw all sorts of animals, exotic birds of paradise and wonderful views. Towards the end of the trip, we even took a boat ride up the Amazon River. And we met some amazing people including our guide, Carlos. Truly an amazing experience.



And, in the end, we did it. A bit sore, VERY muddy and dirty and tired and delighted to have been the first group in 3 years to have tackled that particular route. (Now they tell us!!!)



And then came the sponsored throw. You all did brilliantly – and the money is still coming in. However, we thought it would be good to give you the good news, just before Christmas, that

we have raised £16,300!

It will be split equally between the Nicola Murray Foundation, which funds research into Ovarian Cancer, and, via Sarah's Promise, to the Orphanage in Tanzania.

Thank you for all your support and enthusiasm over the year. Enjoy yourselves at Xmas and we'll see you all back, bright and breezy, in 2016!