



18<sup>th</sup> May

# B2B800



24<sup>th</sup> May



## Bath to Bergerac 800k Cycle Ride Raising Money for Cystic Fibrosis

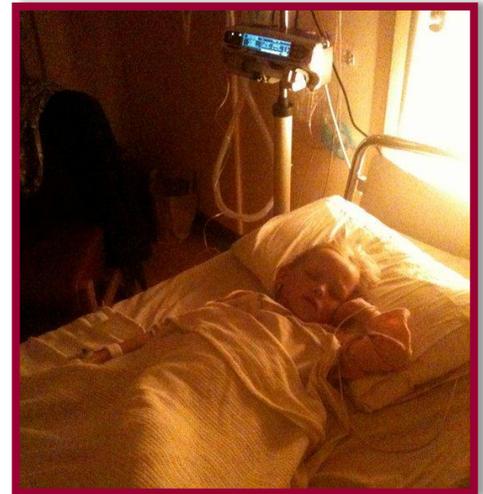


Mary is an 8 year girl at a Primary School in Bath. Much as she enjoys school, she always looks forward to her ballet lessons, and especially enjoys learning the piano with her mum Kerry, and swimming with her younger brother Jack. Unfortunately Mary has Cystic Fibrosis.

Her life is dictated by twice daily chest physiotherapy to help her breathing, which her mum Kerry oversees. She also needs to take multiple supplements to help her digestive system.

Sometimes Mary needs to go into the Royal United Hospital for a week or two of intensive treatment for chest infections. This is Mary's life, and she enjoys it very much. Her dad Phil and mum Kerry work hard to make Mary's life as normal as possible.

But the sad truth is that children like Mary are unlikely to live to see their 40th birthday. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited diseases, being caused by a single defective gene. As a result, the internal organs, especially the lungs and digestive system, become clogged with thick sticky mucus resulting in chronic infections and inflammation in the lungs and difficulty digesting food. It affects around 9000 people in the UK. Research into gene therapy is currently underway but the UK's national charity which deals with all aspects of this disease, the CF Trust, needs to raise £4 million annually to continue the funding. Gene therapy is a way of treating or curing a disease by adding a copy of a healthy gene to do the job of a faulty one. Although this would not cure CF, it would prevent the lung damage that kills 90% of those with CF from developing further.



Bathelona Football Club have been travelling to the Bergerac area of France annually since 2003 to foster trans-channel relations, and play local veterans football teams. This has grown successfully such that two teams from Bergerac now visit Bath each year. We have organised local charity events for the CF Trust over the years, but this year wanted to do something more. We aim to raise in excess of £5000 as well as increase awareness of the condition. Eight of us are cycling from Bath to Bergerac (around 800kms) in 6 days in May, which may be a tall order as some have only just bought their first proper bicycle in years! Thanks to the generosity of friends and family, we have secured equipment, a van and a support crew, a necessity rather than a luxury given that we are all in our 40s!

**To help, donate, follow and get involved turn over.....**



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