

## Daisy trail by tandem

Friday, 28 August 2015

**Prompted by the loss of his wife Emma, Alton man Dave Goodey is set to embark on a 1,500-mile charity cycle ride, leaving a path of daisy seeds - his tribute to Emma - in his trail.**

On September 4, Dave will leave the island of Hvar in Croatia to undertake a journey back to Emma's shop, Unique Chique, in Alton High Street.

The ride, on a tandem with Dave and Emma's beloved dog Lotte as a constant companion, will symbolise the journey he has been on since the death of Emma last year after a long battle with cancer.

Dave said: "I wanted something positive to come out of losing Emma, but also something that represented the feelings of loss, loneliness and struggles after bereavement."

Croatia is where Dave and Emma spent many happy holidays together, and his homeward route will take him through Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, over the Alps, and into France.

It will last for between 30 and 40 days, at an average of around 50 miles of cycling per day.

This will link two of Emma's favourite places with an everlasting trail, as Dave will be asking local families and children to help scatter daisy seeds at every 50-mile stop.

He hopes that this living tribute to Emma will leave behind a symbol of hope and unity for children that the charities he is supporting will help.

Daisies were Emma and Dave's personal symbol of their love, childhood memories and coincidences that bound them together.

They would also have been the theme of their wedding, for which they planned to ride to the reception on a 'bicycle made for two', as in the song 'Daisy, Daisy'.

Due to Emma's failing health, their planned church wedding did not take place.

But Dave said: "By embarking on this journey, I feel like I am completing her wish."

Along with Lotte, the trusty cocker spaniel Emma loved so much, Dave will be joined by friends and family along the route.

He added: "There will be some days, particularly in the middle, where I will be pedalling mainly on my own, unless Lotte gets the hang of it by then.

"It will be in all weathers, both sunshine and rain, up and down hill, through straight, winding and no doubt bumpy roads.

"Our journey home alone will be very symbolic and similar in ways to my journey over the last year or so dealing with the loss of Emma.

"I lost my wife, best friend and partner in the most unfair circumstances, but my friends, family and a very special counsellor from the charity CRUSE have carried me during the uphill struggles and helped guide me through the almost unbearable drudgery that follows bereavement.

"Likewise, those who join me along the route will give a helping boost during my cycle ride."

Dave is raising funds for CRUSE, in recognition of the support it gave him, and also Starlight, Naomi House and Jacksplace, and the NSPCC - children's charities supported by Emma.

To follow Dave's journey, visit [www.daisytrailcycle.com](http://www.daisytrailcycle.com), and his Facebook and Twitter pages. He will add pictures along the way, and a GPS tracker will monitor his progress. To make a donation, visit <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/daisytrailcycle>.

Unique Chique is now run by Emma's mother Rosemary and a team of staff. It sells second-hand and painted furniture, home accessories, unique gifts and the full range of Annie Sloan's Chalk Paint™.

Annie mentored Emma and continues to support Unique Chique. The NSPCC is her chosen charity.

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