

## Pedalling pupils on French leave

PUPILS in Charlton Kings will embark on a five-day cycling trip to the south of France in the summer.

The trip from Balcarras School follows last year's Tour de France activity week which saw schoolchildren meet some of the cyclists and complete one of the stages at the famous event.

Richard Cook of Balcarras School said: "The trip this year is for five days and will venture further into southern France where we are hoping to spectate at the Tour de France stages near Bourg-en-Bresse.

"We transport our own bicycles on the coach and take a mechanic to assist us should there be any mechanical issues.

"It is a fantastic opportunity to sample another cycling culture, see France and have supported rides in the spectacular countryside.

"The trip is open to those with road bikes or mountain bikes."

## Extra meeting for health board

HEALTH bosses will get together for an extraordinary meeting on April 1.

Gloucestershire County Council's health and wellbeing board will meet at Shire Hall in Gloucester from 10am. The meeting is open to the public.

Pictures: Submitted, not for resale



**SUPERWOMAN:** Mountaineer Lucy Rivers Bulkeley, left, and above, in training for the 7 Summits challenge – scaling the highest mountain on each of the world's continents.

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# Adventurous Lucy takes on worst this planet can offer

By Joe Lane  
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FROM the hottest, most inhospitable climates in the world to the highest peaks and temperatures of -40C, Lucy Rivers Bulkeley never does things by halves.

The tough-as-teak adventurer from Longborough, near Moreton-in-Marsh, has already become the first woman in Europe to complete the notorious 4 Deserts challenge in one year.

She pushed herself to the very limit as she completed 250-mile treks across the Atacama, Gobi, Sahara and Antarctic deserts, raising £32,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Now the indomitable extreme sports fan is in the thick of another mammoth endurance test.

She is bidding to become one of a select band to complete the 7 Summits challenge – scaling the highest mountain on each of the world's continents.

If she succeeds she will be the first woman ever to conquer both the four deserts and the seven summits.

Her motivation for pushing herself to such limits is the memory of her father Johnny, who died of cancer in 2007, and money raised through her exploits will again go to Macmillan, which supported him during his illness.

Lucy, who is preparing for an assault on Mount Everest

## NEWS in numbers

**7** The number of mountains Lucy Rivers Bulkeley will be tackling on her 7 Summits challenge bid

next month, said thoughts of her father would never be far away as she tried to scale the world's highest peak.

"I think you always have to do these kind of challenges for a personal reason," she said.

"There has to be something driving you on. In my case, I'm raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of my father.

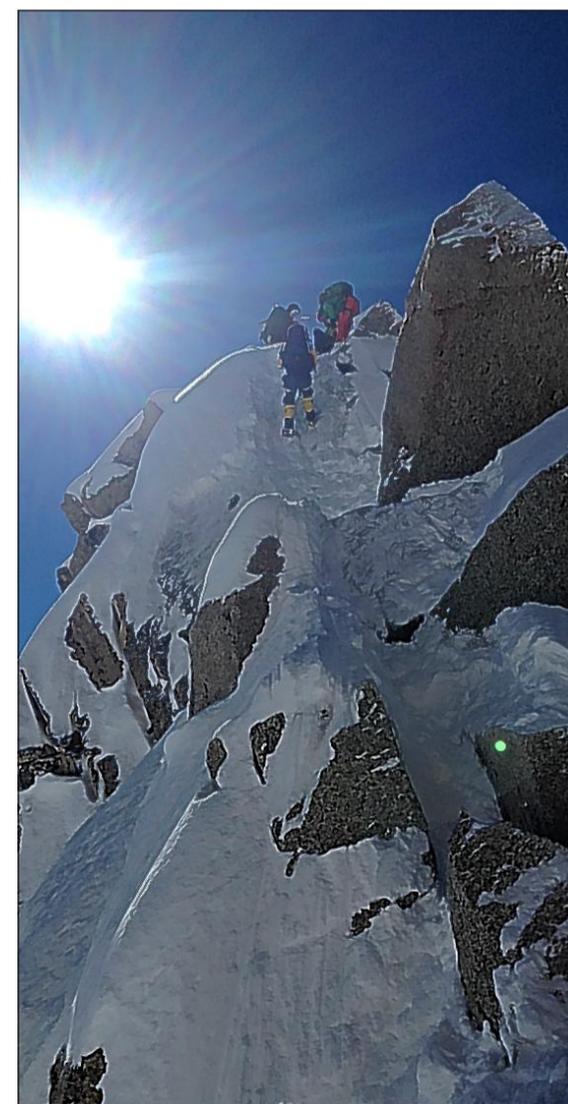
"He lived life to the full and I'd like to think he was somewhere watching."

She has already reached the top of Mount Elbrus in Europe, Aconcagua in South America, and Kilimanjaro in Africa, scaling altitudes of 6,961 metres. She is off to Everest for a summit attempt on April 5 and after that she will turn her attention to Mount McKinley in North America, Mount Vinson, in Antarctica, and Mount Kosciuszko in Australia.

Lucy hopes to up the amount raised to £50,000.

She added: "Macmillan is a cause very close to my heart and I want to continue to support them in my father's memory."

Follow Lucy's blog at [lucyrb.tumblr.com](http://lucyrb.tumblr.com) or keep up with her progress on Twitter via @LucyRBulks



IN TRAINING: A team training weekend in Chamonix

## Easter Church Services

To advertise your Easter church services for Holy Week, please call **Claire Heeks** on **01242 278016** or email **claire.heeks@glosmedia.co.uk**



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