



Press release

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Beijing Biddies 'art'-tic challenge with artist Anita

Five women who are driving non-stop to the Arctic Circle for charity have spent a day with Harrogate artist Anita Bowerman as part of their training for the challenge.

They turned to art during a team building weekend in the run-up to their 2,700-mile trip to Nordkapp in the Arctic Circle in February.

Edwina Sorkin, aged 70, who is heading up the Beijing Biddies Arctic Challenge, said: "It's going to be a gruelling journey in tough winter conditions, so we are training hard at the moment, keeping fit, going on off-road driving courses, learning first aid and heading to the highlands of Scotland for a couple of nights sleeping in the car.

"A crucial part of our training is team building and identifying our strengths and weaknesses. For some people learning how to paint could be much more stressful than driving in an Arctic blizzard!

"We had a fabulous time with Anita though, and we were all rather impressed by our attempts to become artists!"

Anita, who runs Dove Tree Art Studio and Gallery in Harrogate, said: "It was great fun teaching the team. They were highly motivated and what they are doing for charity is inspirational."

The team of Kate Sleath, from Wetherby, Edwina Sorkin, originally from Leeds and now living in Cumbria, Helen Stobart, Liz Tinkler and Kerrie Ellison, also from Cumbria, will drive without any overnight stops through Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway in two Volvo XC90 cars.

They aim to raise £100,000 for Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support.

They take their unusual name of Beijing Biddies from a charity challenge which Edwina and Kate undertook last year when they drove to the Chinese capital in just 29 days for the cancer charities.

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Caption: Four of the Beijing Biddies Arctic Challenge team are pictured with artist Anita. They are (L-R): Helen Stobart, Edwina Sorkin, Liz Tinkler, Kate Sleath and Anita Bowerman.

