

Inagh to China for Winder Foundation

Andrew Hamilton

AN INAGH couple have decided to put their life on hold for six months next year and take part in a mammoth fundraising event which will see them circumnavigate the globe in aid of the William Winder Rainbow Foundation.

John and Brigid Rynne will set out from North Clare next April to take on the 16,500 journey from 'Inagh to China' on the back of a motorcycle. The massive two and a half month 'Inagh to China' trip is only the first part of the overall journey, with John and Brigid also planning to ship their bikes across to America where they

will go coast to coast before making their way home.

"We are aiming to leave from Inagh on Sunday, April 16. There is a large amount of planning that has to go into this - even in terms of getting visas for all the different countries that we will be travelling through. We have to plan a lot of things, but we won't be planning the exact route or exactly where we are going to stay. We will go where the wind takes up to a certain extent," said John.

"Our plan is to ship the bikes from China to the west coast of America and then ride back across America. So we are hoping to make this a round the world trip - the last leg

is not set in stone yet but that is the hope anyway.

"From Inagh to Shanghai is 16,500 kilometres, and to come back across the States in another 4,500 kilometre - so about 21,000 kilometres in total. And that's not including and side routes or detours we might take along the way."

The mammoth journey is designed to raise both funds and awareness for two charities; the William Winder Rainbow Foundation in Clare and the Young Minds charity in the UK. Both charities deal with mental health issues and tackling suicide - especially amongst young people.

"We really want to raise some

awareness. This is not just an Irish problem, this really is a global issue. There are a lot of people out there who don't know about the brilliant services that both of these groups offer to people who are struggling," continued John.

To learn more about the journey or to donate go to www.inaghtochina.com and find links to donate to both the Winder Winder Rainbow Foundation and to Young Minds. For more information search for 'Inagh to China' on Facebook.

The Clare People will follow John and Brigid's journey around the world in a regular blog in the Burren section starting on April of 2015.