

We decided to put our oar in thanks to Metro!



Team: Natalie, Laura, Ella, Annabel and Charlie join up in Marlow PICTURE: MIKE KING

YOU learn all sorts of things by browsing through your daily Metro. And for two readers, picking up the paper has launched a voyage of discovery they will never forget.

Natalie Miles and Charlie Todd are to attempt to row across the Pacific ocean in 155 days after spotting an appeal for crewmates from adventurers Annabel Hancock and Laura Penhaul.

Rather than the trials of the daily commute, the pair will face wind and waves on the 13,500km (8,500-mile) trip from America's west coast to Australia.

They were chosen from 145 intrepid women who applied to join the all-female Coxless Rowers crew after seeing our story.

'We had an amazing response from Metro readers and have found a fantastic team,' said Ms Hancock. Londoner

by **NICOLE LE MARIE**

Ms Miles, 30, a freelance producer, will leave Long Beach, California, in April with the crew's founding members and Edinburgh RAF officer Ms Todd, 31.

Ella Hewton, 23, a marketing executive from Taunton, has been chosen as the first reserve for the journey to Cairns, Queensland.

The recruits are inexperienced rowers but should be in good hands with Londoners Ms Hancock, 27, and Ms Penhaul, 30. The dynamic duo recently paddle-boarded for 1,000 miles down America's Missouri River, as a 'warm-up' for the ocean row.

The team, who are being trained by Team GB coach Alex Wolf, need £100,000 to pay for the trip and are fundraising via their website.

Shooting star show tonight

THE skies above Britain will be lit up by a 'natural firework display' each night this week, experts predict. Up to 60 shooting stars an hour will be seen in a vintage year for the Perseids meteor shower, the Royal Astronomical Society said. The



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