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## Karina's got her ticket to ride

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**A gang of women roaring through the countryside on gleaming Harley-Davidsons will always earn a second look - especially when raising money for charity.**

But the pack that BT customer provision manager Karina Gallagher will be joining this summer is even more remarkable – every single one of the women is a breast cancer survivor.



Karina Gallagher will be on her bike again this summer for the Amazon Heart Thunder event which, this time, runs from Aviemore to London over a week from 26 August.

This is the third year Karina, 45, has taken part in the sponsored Amazon Heart Thunder event which, this time, runs from Aviemore to London over a week from 26 August.

Karina, from Cumbernauld, said: "This year it's going to be absolutely massive. There are 20 riders taking part and some of them are still having their bike lessons.

"When we set off from Aviemore, it'll be amazing. We'll be joined by the Thunder in The Glens rally riders. So there will be more than 1,000 riders for the first leg – that'll be some sight."

Karina was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002 and maintains a £2 Primark bra saved her life.

She bought the garment in her usual size to go under an outfit for a wedding. When she put it on, she found it didn't fit properly and left her feeling sore.

She said: "Two days later, it was still sore and that was when I found the lump while I was showering. The treatment I received on the NHS was second to none and I was diagnosed and operated on within three weeks of finding that darn lump. That bra cost me all of £2 and could well have saved my life."

The event is sponsored by Harley-Davidson, which provides bikes and donates leathers to the women taking part.

Karina, who is married to Charlie and has a daughter Claire, 18, has been a biking fan all her adult life but many of the women learn to ride simply to take part.

She said: "You don't have to be especially strong or fit to ride a Harley, as long as you can lift it off the side stand. We don't have to do any special training to prepare, except for getting some road miles. It helps to toughen up your backside."

Two-thirds of the funds raised go to the Helen Rollason Charity and a third to the Amazon Heart Trust.

For more information about the ride, or to make a donation, visit [the Amazon Heart Thunder website](#).

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