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Amazon heart for Karina

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BT customer provision manager Karina Gallagher pulled on her Harley-Davidson leathers for the third time and roared out of Aviemore accompanied by up to 1,500 other bikers recently.

Karina was taking part in the Amazon Heart Thunder breast cancer survivors' motorcycle adventure UK leg - an annual worldwide event sponsored by Harley-Davidson.



Karina (front row, bottom left) with the Amazon Heart Thunder ladies at Calton Hill, Edinburgh

Karina, 45, who works at BT's Dial House in Glasgow, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002 and maintains that 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."

Karina, who is married to Charlie and has an 18-year-old daughter Claire, has been a biker for five years and passed her test just six months before her diagnosis.

She said: "This year's ride went really well – it was a wonderful experience. It started properly in Aviemore with the Thunder in the Glens Rally.

"Amazon Heart Thunder consisted of 22 women in total - all cancer survivors. Our oldest rider was Margaret at the tender age of 72.

"But from Aviemore we were joined by the local chapter who organised a ride-out as far as Granton on Spey to get us going.

"It was an honour and a privilege to be at the front of the rally with so many bikes behind us – it was like a rolling road block."

Over the next week, the girls travelled from Aviemore to London making friends, raising funds and having adventures.

Karina said: "Warwickshire police, who had been with us in 2005, collected us and rode us up to Stratford on Avon and parked us up outside Shakespeare's birthplace.

"They treated us to tea and cakes as well as a barbeque in the evening. It was one of our girl's birthdays so they arranged a Harley shaped cake – it was fantastic."

Your reporter



Name: Lauren Meldrum
Phone: 07957 612 216 or 01592 643 200
[▶ email me](#)

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The riders were met by the Metropolitan Police bikes on their way into London and accompanied up Pall Mall to an emotional - if saddle-sore - finish.

The event has raised £30,000 - two-thirds of which will 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 website](#).

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