

# Kathleen takes on 120-mile challenge

## PET SHOP OWNER WILL CYCLE THROUGH BORDERS

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HAVAS PEOPLE (N)



■ READY: Kathleen Owen

by JENNIFER RUSSELL

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**A HELENSBURGH pet shop owner is cycling the equivalent of Helensburgh to St Andrews in a gruelling charity challenge.**

Kathleen Owen, who runs Helensburgh's Pet Shop, is participating in the Galloway recycle sportive hosted by the rotary club in Dumfries and Galloway.

The 102-mile journey will see cyclists ride through quiet town and villages and into the Galloway hills — a difficult challenge for any keen rider.

But Kathleen says the challenge is something she is looking forward to completing — raising money for three worthy causes along the way.

The 50-year-old is hoping to raise £3,000 for three causes close to her heart — Island Parrot Sanctuary near Oban, Milton Animal Welfare Centre and Parklands School.

When Pet Shop favourite BJ the Macaw died earlier this year after 28 years at Kathleen and husband Barry's side, she decided to compete in the cycle to raise money in his honour.

Kathleen explains: "When BJ died in February, I decided to fund raise but I didn't want to do it for just one cause I wanted to support a few local causes as well.

"I have sponsor forms in the shop and will set up a just giving page, hopefully I can raise as much as possible for all three causes."

She added: "I have done the 67-mile cycle for the past two years but never the 102-mile challenge, so I will have to push myself to finish it.

"It will take me around nine or 10 hours and I know most of the route but the last 20 miles is very hilly so I am not looking forward to that part especially after already cycling 80 miles.

"But I guess when I come to a hill I will just have to put my head down and get on with it."

Kathleen, a keen cyclist with pink handle bars on her bike, has started training already for the August 10 challenge, she completed 54 miles last Thursday but will have to push to reach 70 miles the week before the race in order to complete it.

You can sponsor Kathleen by going into The Pet Shop on Sinclair Street and filling out the sponsor form.