



CYCLIST Ken Roberts is still smiling — even after 700 days in the saddle.

Ken's pedal power

A TAUNTON man cycling around the world for charity has been pedalling for nearly 700 days – and he isn't done yet.

Fitzhead resident Ken Roberts set off in September 2009 and since then has cycled solo across Europe, Central Asia, China and Australia.

The 42-year-old sources his own food, water and accommodation along the way with the project being funded through rent from his Somerset home and a mix of savings.

Mr Roberts is hoping to raise at least one pound for every mile travelled, which stands at 15,000 miles so far, for the Outward Bound Trust – who offer young people outdoor adventurous experiences in the UK.

He starts his next challenge this week, leaving Anchorage in the Northern realms of Alaska, hoping to notch up his fourth continent before the winter snow arrives – and he has more planned after

that.

Mr Roberts said: “North America should take around five months to cross which will leave me South America and Africa to do, which should take another 18 months.

“I don't have too much difficulty getting food, but it can be very repetitious such as eating mutton three times a day in Central Asia.

“Clean, safe water can be more of a problem, especially in places like the Gobi Dessert, but often lorry drivers and passers-by will offer me top-ups.

“I think the Trust do a fantastic job, which I had the chance to benefit when I was 16, so this is my way to give something back to the charity and help others have the same opportunity I had.”

To follow Mr Roberts' progress or to donate to the Trust, visit www.acrosscontinents.org