



BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS



No 143 February 2012

FROM THE EDITOR

PAT OWEN

By the time you read this no doubt February will be over and we shall all be looking forward to the spring. Nevertheless, I would like to wish you all the best for the year ahead and miles of safe and enjoyable cycling.

As many of you probably know, Dave Lukes, CTC committee member and former secretary and newsletter editor died on January 19th aged 69 having undergone surgery, radio and chemotherapy for over 8 months. A celebration of Dave's life was held at Bedford Crematorium on the 6th February, which was attended by about 350 people. He will be greatly missed on our committee and by the wider cycling community. A tribute to Dave is included in this edition.

Don't forget to let us know if you can receive your newsletter by email – if you receive a hard copy, we make the greatest efforts to get it to you as soon as possible but inevitably there are sometimes delays, as there was before Christmas. We apologise to those affected.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We hope you are becoming regular visitors to our website (www.ctc-bedfordshire.co.uk). Thanks to Andy Raybould, our website designer and CTC member and a small band of helpers from your committee, the site is improving week by week. It includes details of forthcoming and past events/rides, information on café stops, a history of the local club, the current newsletter as well as useful links – I was interested to

see that there was a link to British Cycling and the recent World Cup, for example. Andy and the team would much appreciate comments on the website, so that they can ensure it meets the needs of members (and potential members, of course). They are also building a library of photos for use on the site, so if you have any good shots that they could use – views, animals, cafés, plants, (bikes even!) do get in touch.

DAVE LUKES

Dave was a fit and energetic individual with a strong commitment to a wide range of causes and interests, including local politics, rugby, walking and of course cycling.

He was an intrepid cyclist, undertaking a variety of challenging solo rides, such as Lands End to John O'Groats, Dungeness to Durness and Lowestoft to Ardnamurchan Point and he loved the journeys, whatever the conditions. But he enjoyed riding with others as well and was a keen club cyclist, willing to lead rides and ensuring that all participants, whether beginners or 'old hands' had a safe and pleasant ride.

His contribution to our committee over the past few years has been invaluable. Dave was the driving force behind the introduction of new rides (the Classic and Gentle Rough Stuff, for example), which now complement our well established Easy Rides and was enthusiastic about the development of the website. As secretary he made sure that ride leaders were fully acquainted with CTC 'good practice' and built up excellent relationships with CTC

headquarters, who commented that Dave was one of the most polite and thorough secretaries they had dealt with.

Dave was always willing to give his time to support others in their endeavours. Members might remember his illustrated talk in 2009 when he told us about his work with the Elenydd Wilderness Trust, which cares for two remote youth hostels in mid Wales. Dave and his wife, Nicky held coffee mornings to raise funds to allow me to take part in two bike rides for Marie Curie Cancer Care and supported other events leading up to these challenges.

Dave was held in very high regard by many people from all walks of life as could be seen by the numbers attending the celebration of his life on the 6th February. Although it was inevitably a sad occasion, Dave made sure that his family and friends walked out of the crematorium with a smile on their faces – he requested that 'Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life' from Monty Python's 'Life Of Brian' was played as we exited!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Don't forget that **evening rides** will start again in May and continue through the summer months. Details will follow on the website and in the next newsletter.
- **Quiz Night:** Put Wednesday 24th October 2012 in your diaries, when we will be holding a quiz night at the White Horse in Newnham Avenue, Bedford. Proceeds will be divided between CTC Beds and a local charity (to be decided at next committee meeting). Further details will follow in due course.