



# BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS



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**FROM THE EDITOR**

**PAT OWEN**

I have been encouraged recently by cycling's improved national profile. Firstly, there was the debate on safer cycling in Parliament in February, which was well attended by all parties. This was preceded by MPs talking to a group of cycling experts, which included Roger Geffen from CTC. – one of the measures being considered by ministers is a change to the driving test, for example, to increase motorists' awareness of cycling safety.

When Mary Bowers, a Times reporter, was seriously injured in an accident with a lorry, her newspaper began their cycling campaign. The Times is committed to achieving an 8 point manifesto calling for cities to be made fit for cyclists. The campaign is supported by a host of well known personalities, such as Sir Chris Hoy, Rebecca Romero, Victoria Pendleton and Mark Cavendish. Cambridge City councillors, I gather, have been some of the first local councillors to sign up to the campaign. Cyclists throughout the country can highlight local cycling hazards, using the Times' website's interactive map.

Our professional cyclists continue to do well and, judging by their recent results in Australia, we can look forward to them winning more medals in the London Olympics in July. Their success will hopefully encourage wider participation in cycling.

Still on a positive note, Beds CTC membership rises steadily – it now stands at 590, an increase of 30 since the AGM in November.

So, let's look forward to a summer of safe, successful and enjoyable cycling.

## CYCLING EVENTS/CHALLENGES

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- **Cycletta** organises a series of women only rides. There are 7 events around the country. The first takes place at Woburn Abbey on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Two routes are available, 40 or 60k, on quiet country roads, with 'treat' stops and a free pamper zone at the finish. Before the event, training advice from Victoria Pendleton is available along with motivational information. Entry fee is £42 or £44, depending on length of route. Two of our committee members (Chantal Lewis and Carole Murphy) are planning to take part to raise money for Bedford Guild House. If you would like to sponsor them contact Carole or Chantal or if

you would like to join them, go to [www.cycletta.co.uk](http://www.cycletta.co.uk) for more information on sponsorship options and registration details.

- **Lands End to John O'Groats:** I am planning to do the **Lejog** ride this June/July (before I get too old!). I am sure there are members out there who have completed this challenge and, if so, I would love to talk to them. If you think you could pass on useful tips and advice, please contact me – Pat Owen. I intend to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care and would welcome donations to that cause.

## CHARITY QUIZ

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As reported in the last edition the quiz will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> October at the White Horse in Newnham Avenue, so we hope the date is already in your diary. Your committee has decided that the proceeds shall be divided between CTC Beds and the NSPCC. Tickets will cost £5 and the price will include a ploughman's supper. Ideally, we are looking for teams of between 4

and 6. Tickets will be available nearer the date, but if you would like to express an interest, I intend to start a list of those who would like to take part, so please contact me – Pat Owen, details as above. We shall require raffle prizes too. If you can donate a prize yourself or know a business that could be approached for prizes, please let me know.

## FINAL NOTES

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- Summer evening and starter rides will start again in May – for more information please contact Chantal.
- CTC Bike Week is 16<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> June. We hope that you will be able to join us on at least one of the rides arranged that week and obviously visitors would be most welcome too.
- I am looking for articles for the next edition. Any cycling related topic will be considered. Do let me know if you would like to contribute.