



BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS

No 148 February 2013

EDITORIAL

PAT OWEN

I thought Spring had arrived last Tuesday, when I joined 40+ group on a most enjoyable ride through central Beds, but it was short lived and the bitterly colds of winter seem to have returned with a vengeance as I start this edition of the newsletter – flicking back through previous editions, I realise that our weather features heavily in my editorials. I guess most road cyclists are similarly obsessed. Perhaps it's only sailors who listen as avidly to wind forecasts as we do!

Your committee would like your views on three issues:

- Recent fundraising efforts have allowed us to build up some money that we would like to use to benefit local cycling related causes. Any ideas?
- As you know we are concerned about the lack of interest in our AGM. We have decided to try to hold future meetings in central Beds and combine them with an 'event' (a speaker, for example) to encourage better attendance – suggestions of venues and/or speakers would be most welcome.
- Now that the website is up and running, we are considering only posting the newsletter on the site and not attaching it to individual emails. (Members without internet access will still receive a hard copy). Does anyone have views on this? Would you still appreciate an email alert, when the newsletter is posted on the website?

We are pleased to tell you that John Harris, Registration Officer, is now out of hospital, fully recovered and working hard on CTC Beds tasks.

Key Contacts:

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CHARITY RIDE – PEDAL TO THE MEDAL

Sam Levey, 26, from Bolton is about to cycle between all of the gold post boxes that were painted in honour of the Team GB – covering a total of 2,500 miles and starting on 17th March. He is doing this to raise money for The Children's Air Ambulance. He is hoping that other cyclists may join him along the way, to take part in a leg of it themselves or to cheer him on. He is also looking for offers of accommodation and food – anything to save costs.

Our president, Veronica has kindly agreed to put him up during his stay in Bedfordshire (3rd/4th April), where he will be visiting Victoria Pendleton's and Etienne Stott's post boxes. If anyone would like to donate to his cause go to: www.justgiving.com/SamLevey or, if you would like more details, contact David Reeves on: 08454 130 999.

OBITUARIES

We are sad to announce the recent deaths of the following CTC members:

- **Brian Braybrooke** was found dead at home on the 4th February – sadly the day of his mother's funeral. The following is an extract from Veronica Brown's report for the 40+ group: 'Brian had a hard life with his diabetic, heart and other problems, but he loved cycling and totalled thousands of miles every year, dividing his rides between Bedford, Cambridge and Yorkshire. He also toured extensively on the Continent and worked for some time in Sweden.' Brian's funeral will take place at Bedford

Crematorium on Friday 8th March at 11.30 am.

- **Mick Duffy**, 68, of Chapel Close, Toddington died of heart failure in Spain towards the end of 2012. He had been a very active cyclist all his life. He was junior divisional champion at one time and starter for the Mildenhall Rally for many years. He was planning to move to Spain. 50 people attended his funeral and I believe a memorial service was held between Christmas and the New Year.
- **Richard Hutchins** who was 97 years died on the 19th January. Although he recently lived in Kent, he spent most of his life in Bedfordshire. There will be a memorial service at Clapham Church on the 17th March.

NEWS FROM ROUND THE REGION

Luton and Dunstable Cycle Forum

The group has been working hard inputting views to the Woodside Link Road consultation – the road is to be a direct corridor between the Woodside estate and the motorway and would remove traffic from the existing road network in the area, making it safer for cyclists.

The group had one concern, though – that where the route crosses existing public rights of way or pedestrian/cycle routes (including NCR 6), signal controlled crossings would be provided rather than an underpass or overhead bridge.

The consultation committee responded that as the Woodside

Link will be subject to speed limits of 40 mph, reducing to 30 mph, where appropriate and traffic was predicted to be light, the signal controlled crossings were the most appropriate. However, where the road crosses Houghton Brook on the eastern side, a segregated pedestrian/cycle route (NCR 6) will be provided under the new road. NCR 6 will be incorporated into the scheme, with a signalled crossing to Pastures Way and a bridge crossing the diverted Houghton Brook at Parkside Drive.

(Summary of information contributed by Robin Cowan).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Thursday 16th May: Circuit of Bedford Ride, organised by the 40+ Group.
- Saturday 25th May: Markyate Cycle Jumble Sale at Markyate Village Hall, 9 – 12.30 pm. Further details from Jack on: 01582 476136 (mentioned previously in November/December).