



# BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS



No 150 December 2013

## EDITORIAL

PAT OWEN

I must firstly apologise for the long wait for this edition. There are a number of reasons for this, the most significant probably being the reduced number of committee members. This has resulted in each remaining committee member having to take on additional tasks. We have decided that for the foreseeable future, we will only produce two editions a year (a winter and a summer), in the knowledge that the majority of members will be able to access information via the website.

This edition includes a summary of the AGM held in October, most memorable as this was the last one presided over by Veronica Brown, who stepped down this year as President. She will be greatly missed for her unstinting dedication, commitment and quiet authority. Please read her farewell article, also in this edition.

Although information on all our activities (and the newsletter) are on the website, we are still producing hard copies for those who need it.

However, as we are very aware of the cost and problems associated with delivery, we would ask you to let us know if you still require a paper copy of the newsletter, by contacting John Harris or myself – details below. If we do not hear from you we will assume you no longer require a paper copy.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and safe and enjoyable cycling throughout 2014

## FOR SALE

Giant, folding bike. 20" wheels, 7 speed derailleur. Computer. VGC. Set of large panniers (as new). **Contact:** Ian on 01234 355725 or 07751 267805.

### Key Contacts:

**Neville Hobday, Chairperson**

**01234 360068**

[neville.hobday@ntlworld.com](mailto:neville.hobday@ntlworld.com)

**Chantal Lewis, Secretary**

**01234 219148**

[chantal@phonecoop.coop](mailto:chantal@phonecoop.coop)

**Pat Owen, Newsletter Editor**

**01234 360981**

[owen.icc@ntlworld.com](mailto:owen.icc@ntlworld.com)

**John Harris, Registration Officer**

**01234 296328**

[john.harris194805@yahoo.com](mailto:john.harris194805@yahoo.com)

## **AGM 2013**

---

The 87<sup>th</sup> AGM was held on the evening of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Veronica Brown, our President, welcomed 18 members, not to her home as in previous years, but to the Wingfield Club in Ampthill. This was a significant meeting for Veronica as it was her last as President and we were all delighted that she was able to attend despite her continued illness.

### **Reports:**

Annual reports for the year ending 30 September 2013 were read. The Secretary's report offers a good synopsis of CTC Bedfordshire's year and the main points are noted here:

- Move of AGM to more central location in Ampthill.
- 537 members, 25 of whom have joined this year.
- Easyriders' Programme adversely affected by weather last winter and illness of group members. Classic rides went ahead as scheduled, attracting between 4 and 6 members. Disappointing level of interest in Starter and Evening rides. Rough Stuff Rides' leader, Stuart Mason, resigned from CTC during the year but can be contacted by members wishing to participate in these types of rides.
- Committee explored worthy causes to support. £50 donation made to Sam Levy who raised funds for Children's Air Ambulance by cycling to every Olympic 'gold' post box. (See also AOB).
- Shock of sudden death of longstanding member Brian Braybrook.
- Good progress of website thanks to the hard work of sub committee and webmaster.
- Retirement of 3 committee members – Richard Marshall, Carole Murphy (moving to Staffordshire/Cheshire border) and Veronica Brown. Veronica's retirement will have a dramatic impact on the group. She has been the driving force behind all aspects of CTC Beds, organising the rides programmes, participating in them every week, organising fundraising events and hosting summer and Christmas lunches. The committee's grateful thanks go to Veronica.

### **Election of Officials:**

The officers prepared to stand for re-election were proposed and seconded. Veronica Brown, Carole Murphy and Richard Marshall had expressed their wishes to retire. No nominations were received for the position of President to replace Veronica Brown. John Harris volunteered to replace Veronica as Album Custodian, was proposed and seconded and Chantal Lewis was elected to replace Carole Murphy as Secretary.

So the revised list of officials is as follows:

President	Vacant
Chairperson (Committee)	Neville Hobday
Secretary	Chantal Lewis

Treasurer	Chris Waters
Promotions Officer	Chantal Lewis
Registration Officer	John Harris
Welfare Officer	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Pat Owen
Easyriders	Vacant
Album Custodian	John Harris
Webmaster	Andy Raybould
Auditor	Barry Frost

### **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Officers:**

**Veronica Brown** – Neville Hobday spoke of the group’s gratitude for Veronica’s 35 years of service. John Harris recalled fond memories of cycle rides with Veronica over the years. We were reminded that Veronica created the Family Section in 1978 and was awarded a Certificate of Merit in 1996. Veronica was presented with flowers, chocolates and a Pedal Exercise’ machine.

**Carole Murphy** – Neville thanked Carole for the work she had done since joining the committee in 2009 and wished her well in her move to pastures new. She was presented with card and gift voucher.

**Richard Marshall** was thanked for his contribution to the committee since 2010.

### **Any Other Business:**

A number of matters were raised, including suggestions of cycling related good causes, to which we could offer support.

### **Peter Blakeman:**

Following refreshments Peter Blakeman gave a presentation on the work of the Cycling Campaign in North Bedfordshire.

## **A PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL**

## **VERONICA BROWN**

The AGM, held on 16 October, was the 39<sup>th</sup> I have attended and my final. I have seen many changes over the years – the demise of the Luton Sections and the near demise of the Easyriders’ Section. All official Sunday rides have been dropped and the Saturday rides have been cut short to coffee only.

You would think cycling was going out of fashion, but no – when you see the clubs and solo riders out – that belies the thinking. Perhaps we need to be younger with lots of energy to get the miles in!

However, getting back to the AGM, I was surprised to receive so many presents. Unfortunately the flowers have faded and the chocolates have been eaten, but the pedal pusher waits for me to use at any time. The idea was to reduce the swelling in my legs. Perhaps it will happen one day! My sincere thanks to the Committee for the overwhelming presents.

You will be pleased to note that I have had an operation on my lung to improve my breathing. Mr Scarci is a specialist at Papworth Hospital and worked wonders. I am left with a drain to keep my lung clear, but it is worth it to be able to breathe.

My chemotherapy should end in January, when I hope to be fit again.

**Veronica Brown (ex-everything)**

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

---

- **The Women's Tour** will visit Bedford on 8<sup>th</sup> May next year. The Tour is the first ever international stage race for women. The exact route and times will be announced in due course.
- Don't forget the **Tour de France** will visit Cambridge a little later in the year. Look out for details.