



# BEDFORDSHIRE NEWS

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## EDITORIAL

PAT OWEN

I trust that members have had a great cycling summer and that they're now looking out their winter togs, so that they can help to maintain cycling's reputation for producing some of the fittest citizens in the country.

With the onset of autumn, your committee's thoughts inevitably turn to CTC Beds' AGM, so details of this are given below. Please do try and attend if you can and bring friends too if you wish, even if they are not members.

If you haven't joined a club ride recently, I hope that the short article below will encourage you to do so. Our routes and pit stops are many and varied and we are always seeking out new routes and interesting places to visit (especially if they include tempting refreshments!)

## AGM 2015

The AGM takes place on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at Friends' Meeting House, 5 Lansdowne Road, Bedford, MK40 2BY at 7.30 pm.**

As I'm sure you are well aware, election of officers will take place, so if you think you might like to serve on the committee, don't be afraid to put your name forward – you would be very welcome, even if you just want to be a participant rather than hold an official post. (The more we have on the committee, the less work there is to do! Meetings are only every couple of months and coffee, tea and biscuits are always available!)

Following the business part of the meeting, there will be refreshments and then we have a guest speaker. You may remember that CTC Beds donated last year £250 to Ridgeway School in Kempston for cycling related activities. Graham Allard, the head teacher will be joining us to give a short presentation on the work of the school.

Hope to see you all on the 21<sup>st</sup>!!

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If you look regularly at the website, you will know that our rides take place fortnightly on a Saturday and monthly on a Sunday and are generally between 15 and 30 miles in length. Participation varies according to weather, destination, time of year etc but rides on average will attract between 5 and 10 cyclists. For an official CTC ride there has to be a leader – this is not as onerous as it sounds, so if you feel like helping out, do contact one of us and we will explain how it works. The ‘pit stop’ is always an important part of our planning and types of places we stop at include sporting venues such as golf and shooting clubs and an equestrian centre, Marston Moretaine Forest Centre, Jordan’s Mill and a chilli farm! My particular favourites are Oliver’s in Kimbolton (especially welcoming to cyclists), the delightful ex post office in Southill, (with its lovely garden, chintzy tablecloths and pretty china) and Emmaus in Carlton.

We try to feature a car assisted ride in the programme and this year Paul Hunter kindly organised and led a fascinating ride from Milton Keynes into some lovely Buckinghamshire villages. Not only was he a superb leader, warning us well in advance of potential hazards or (hills!) but he was also extremely informative about the places we were seeing en route.

A new ride this year was the ‘Circuit of Bedford’ – a number of us had taken part in the 40+ organised ride in the past and decided that, now this was no longer available, we would organise our own. Richard Marshall bravely took on this task and led the ride. We had a beautiful day for our 100k – plenty of sunshine and no wind. We left Bedford about 9.30 am and returned at 5.30 pm. We stopped for refreshments at Emmaus, Marston Moretaine Forest Centre and Moggerhanger Park. As you see from the photo, taken towards the end of the ride, we all look reasonably happy so are hoping to do the same next year. A big thank you to Richard.

