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# Newsletter

July 2026

The summer is now well and truly with us and the club continues its varied programme of rides. This newsletter contains information from the AGM and updates on the centenary activities. Members are particularly asked to note the special rides being planned for the rest of the year, including a Centenary Ride on 11 July, a circumnavigation of Bedford and a three-day tour around the border of the county. You can also read about the ongoing quest to visit 100 parishes across the county.

Please do get in touch and join in the rides. It's your club!

## AGM News

CUK Bedfordshire AGM took place on Monday 27th April 2026 and a celebratory cake was cut to represent the occasion of the centenary of the club.



A number of 'iconic' rides are being organised to celebrate the centenary and some examples are given below. These will continue to be listed as part of the normal Rides Programme.

The officers of the club were re-elected, and we thank them for their continued service: Kam Dhillon MBE (Chair), Tim Bennett (Secretary), Martin Powell (Treasurer), Alan Binney (Membership Secretary and Rides Co-ordinator), Pete Bradshaw (Publicity). Reports were received covering the previous year's activities and noting the wide variety and impressive number of rides that the club and its members organise. We had 80 rides to 41 different destinations, covering nearly 2400 miles and involving 30 different members. Our thanks to all our ride leaders for their

contribution, especially Alan Binney, Jeff Frankel, and Richard Marshall who all led 10+ rides and top the chart for rides attended.

It was agreed at the AGM to adopt The Road Victims Trust as a charity.

Details of how we will make a contribution to this charity will be discussed and circulated soon.

We are most pleased to be able to say that our long standing and valued member Bob continues to make good recovery following the awful 'hit and run' incident that he was involved in, as widely covered in the media.

The group would welcome ideas and suggestions from all members and, *in this Centenary Year, would particularly welcome contact from our Life Members.*

Specially produced Cycling UK Bedfordshire Centenary cloth badges for jerseys/ tops were handed out at the AGM and during the rides to those who were not able to attend. It is requested that these be sewed/ placed on the left side of the jersey, below the CTC "wings" logo.

Sufficient badges were ordered to cover those that ride regularly with the club and have the group's kit. Requests by members not able to ride with the group will be considered, funds allowing. At the moment, these are kindly sponsored by Goldratt UK.



## 2026 Centenary

As mentioned above the AGM focussed on the activities that are taking place during 2026 to celebrate 100 years since the club's foundation. A cake was cut at the AGM and badges distributed.

## *Churches, temples, spirituality and cycling*

One of the key features of the centenary events has been riding to visit the many Church of England parish churches in Bedfordshire. Why CoE Churches? This is not based on any particular religion, and we emphasise that all religions are respected, and indeed, those who have no religious belief at all. Rather it was felt that in doing so we would be able to map our coverage of the county by using its underlying division into parishes.

Having discussed this at the 2025 AGM, we agreed that we would aim to cover 100 parishes as part of the Centenary Celebrations with the parish church as a representation of each place. Additionally, as we have cycled across the Bedfordshire Countryside we have often been impressed by these churches, admiring the beauty, settings and some of their history during our rides.



*Parish churches of Henlow and Toddington – 2 of the 65 visited so far*

All ride leaders have been making slight adjustments and detours to our usual cafe destinations routes in order to record parish churches. Some notable rides to mention are a ride on the eastern side of the county led by Richard, one in the south-central part led by Paul and one in the north-west led by Tim. These covered almost 40 parishes. Paul also led a train assisted ride from St Albans Cathedral back to the Sikh Temple in Bedford, as with the churches, a distinct building often admired.

As at the end of May we have covered 65 parish churches in Bedfordshire out of our target of 100!



*From St Albans Cathedral to Sikh Temple, Bedford*

### *Other centenary rides and events planned for later in 2026*

**The Committee's Centenary ride** to Turvey Church (Saturday 11th July). We need a good turnout for this. The community café at the church have been looking after and making us feel most welcome over the years and we agreed, some two years ago, to do something at the church during our centenary year.

**Circuit of Bedford ride** (details to be confirmed. See rides' calendar). A day ride of 60+ miles circumnavigating Bedford and surrounding area is being considered. It is being led by Richard and as with all rides that are led by Richard, it will be an amazing experience.

**Boundary of Bedfordshire ride** (Sunday 20th – Tuesday 22nd September). Led by Pete, this will be more of an iconic Centenary Tour for the group covering the boundary of the Bedfordshire area and will include all Bedfordshire local authorities - Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton. An overnight stay is planned at St Neots on the Sunday evening and a train will be used on the Monday evening to return home. Please make every effort to support this ride, your company will be much appreciated.

**Celebratory lunch** (date to be advised, venue likely to be The Greyhound Haynes). This is being planned for early December with Pat and Chantal kindly leading on the arrangement. Details and any changes will be circulated to all members.

### **Rides programme**

The current ride programme can, as always, be found on the website at

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/bedfordshire>

The group rides regularly on Saturdays, on rides of around 25-30 miles, leaving from Bedford Park at 0930. Do not let the distance put you off, though as we are a supportive social group, and no one is left behind.

In addition, there are so-called Classic rides, which tend to be longer both in time and mileage. Normally on a Thursday, about twice a month, and occasionally on Sundays, these feature a couple of stops at least with the advertised destination being the lunch stop. Members also meet regularly on Tuesday mornings around 1030 for a ride of 25 miles or so returning in the early afternoon.

Join us: [https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-](https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/bedfordshire)  
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