

## Tolpuddle Defibrillator Cycle Challenge



It was early spring 2017 when two residents of Tolpuddle were having a discussion on how to raise funds for a in Tolpuddle. It was decided that a group of locals would pick up the challenge and participate in a sponsored cycle ride from Bath to Tolpuddle over one weekend.

Arrangements were made to transport the bikes to Bath, for train tickets, Saturday night accommodation and to confirm the cycle routes and stopping places to meet up with the support vehicles.

Early evening on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September the group assembled at the pub to load cycles into the vehicles, and then it was home for an early night.

The 14 Tolpuddle riders arrived at Bath Spa Station at 8.45am and set off for the first section to ride along the river Avon for 2 miles to meet up with the final 3 cyclists. The 17 cyclists took the Twin Tunnels route (the longest tunnels in Europe) stopping at Midford and then Radstock following the old railway line. After that the route was to Great Elm through some lovely countryside, again following the old railway line, and then through the Longleat estate arriving at the Bath Arms at Horningsham for lunch.

Unfortunately the weather conditions began to change with the wind picking up and rain starting, the group met up with the support vehicles at Zeals, the last refreshment stop before setting off for the Half Moon pub at Horsington for a night stop over, arriving at 5.00pm after cycling just over 45 miles.

Next morning everyone was up bright and early and ready for a good breakfast before cycling to Sturminster Newton then on to Blandford via Shillingstone. The weather turned to constant rain for the final push to the Martyrs Inn where there was an enthusiastic welcome from a group of villagers.

Of the 17 riders 15 completed the full 86 miles over the 2 days, the other 2 covered the miles between. A huge thank you to all sponsors, the riders (Tim, Yvonne, Steve, Carrie, Simon, Elizabeth, David, Jan, Merv, Heather, Brent, Julian, Will, Dan, Martyn, Bill and Michael) and the support team (Rosy, Jim, Ray, Tim and Peter) and special thanks to Newglaze and Will for the use of their vehicles.

It was a fantastic experience and once again the community of Tolpuddle have done their bit.

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Mervyn Harris and Dr. John Taylor ran a series of training sessions on CPR, about 35 local people have been trained.

The defibrillator is located outside the Martyrs Inn (left hand side) with clear instructions on how to use it.

If anyone requires more information, Please contact Mervyn Harris on [mervynharris981@btinternet.com](mailto:mervynharris981@btinternet.com)