

Louis' Bike



The bicycle displayed in the window of the British Legion 'Pop-up Poppy Shop' in the Harpur Centre this year (2016) used to belong to Louis Fussell; cycle campaigner, Karate black belt (in his late 70s), musician, composer and lifelong charity fundraiser.

Louis was a founder member of Cycling Campaign for North Bedfordshire (CCNB) in 1992 and a member of the committee. On Friday 25 January 2008, aged 82 years old, he was killed whilst cycling through the junction of Wentworth Drive with Putnoe Lane.

He started collecting for charity in the mid 1990s and between 2000 up to his death had cycled each year, sometimes twice from his home in Bedford to Scotland and back on his trusty Pashley Roadster on the way collecting for a number of different charities. For his 70th, 72nd and 80th birthdays in 1995, 1997 and 2005 the trips had been made from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Six trips between 2000 and 2006 were made on behalf of the Macmillan Primrose Appeal for Bedford Hospital and then three trips between 2005 and 2007

for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Many of the trips were written up and published in CCNB's newsletters.

Louis was also a music teacher and had taught music at the former girl's high school at Harlow Academy in the 1960s and 70s and had spent nine years in Aberdeen before settling in Bedford where he continued to teach the violin and play the viola in the Bedford Symphony Orchestra until his death.

From the start of his music career in 1955 he had also been interested in composing and wrote many works including eight symphonies. He organised his first concert, his 4th Romantic Symphony, in Bedford Corn Exchange for charity in June 2001 before its premier in Romania in the following Autumn. Since that time there have been many concerts of his different works.

When Louis lived in Aberdeen he was an active member of the Cairngorm Club of Aberdeen and he continued to join them on hill walking trips during his cycle trip there.