

Not enjoyable discipline

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Forces combine to celebrate anniversary of their founding

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MILITARY cadets from Hammersmith and Fulham are joining in with celebrations for their forces' 150th anniversary year.

They will be among thousands of cadets from across the country taking part in a St George's Day march along Whitehall next month.

They will also join a series of Cadet150 events, concluding on Remembrance Sunday in November.

The four cadet forces – Army Cadets, Sea Cadet Corps, Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force – were founded in 1860.

They aim to boost the confidence, discipline and skills of people aged between 12 and 18 through adventure activities and courses.

They are sponsored by the armed services, but are independent of them, and members are not liable to be called up for military service.

Opportunities include trips away, awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh's survival award and courses in sports, first aid and military skills.

The cadets have deep ties with Hammersmith and Fulham, with an army cadet force local headquarters in Princess Louise House, Hammersmith Road, and an air cadet base in Fulham.

Hammersmith-based sea cadet Ania Kennedy, 16, says she joined up to make new friends. "I also like the uniform, the discipline and learning new things all of the time," she added.

Staff Sergeant Rebecca O'Rourke, 16, a member of 207 Hammersmith Army Cadet Force, says gaining the Duke of Edinburgh gold award is the biggest

achievement of her three years as a cadet.

"I joined because I wanted to be a part of a team and get some discipline in my life," she said.

"I'm most proud of winning a national first aid competition. I love competing so being in the cadets is great for me."

Air cadet Warrant Officer Ahmed Ali, 19, a member of the 344 Hammersmith Squadron Air Training Corps, joined six years ago and has travelled to the Falkland Islands with the organisation.

He said: "I joined the cadets to be more productive with my spare time. I've been gliding and flying, and have been on lots of adventure training expeditions. I have even represented the air cadets in marksmanship competitions."

The cadet forces are some of the world's oldest voluntary organisations.

They have 131,000 members, led by 25,000 adults, across the country.



■ ALWAYS LEARNING:



■ PART OF A TEAM: Re

Plucky patient pedals to improve tumour research



■ WHEEL PRACTICE: Dan and wife Lucy training in Richmond Park

Contributed

A BRAIN tumour patient is organising a 15-mile bike ride from Charing Cross Hospital to raise money for research into the disease.

Dan Wiggins, 33, will cycle in aid of the Brain Tumour Research Campaign (BTRC), which has a research centre at the hospital.

Mr Wiggins, whose condition was diagnosed four years ago, said: "I want to raise money for research into treatment that will slow the growth of brain tumours and ultimately cure them."

"I decided to organise a bike ride because, since my diagnosis, I haven't been able to drive so I've had to become a keen cyclist."

"I'm expecting about 20 friends and family to join me. I'm also inviting staff from Charing Cross Hospital to come along too."

"For those who don't fancy the ride, any sponsorship

would be welcome."

BTRC's founder, Wendy Fulcher, set up the charity after her husband, John, died aged 52 of brain cancer at Charing Cross in 2001.

Research into brain tumours is in its infancy and Mrs Fulcher said little is known about their behaviour, effective diagnoses and treatment.

"We're very grateful to Dan for his fundraising efforts, which will help our research enormously," she added.

The bike ride will begin outside the hospital's Reynolds building at 10.30am on Sunday, March 28.

For further information or to make a donation visit www.mindovermiles.org or www.justgiving.com/danwiggins-btrc.

Mr Wiggins is also planning a fundraising ride from John O'Groats to Land's End, starting on April 14.

Cyclist crashes into pensioner

A FULHAM pensioner called on cyclists to take more care after he was hit by a bike at a pedestrian crossing.

Jim Priddle, 80, was hit as he crossed while the lights were red to traffic near Marks and Spencer in Fulham Broadway last Tuesday afternoon.

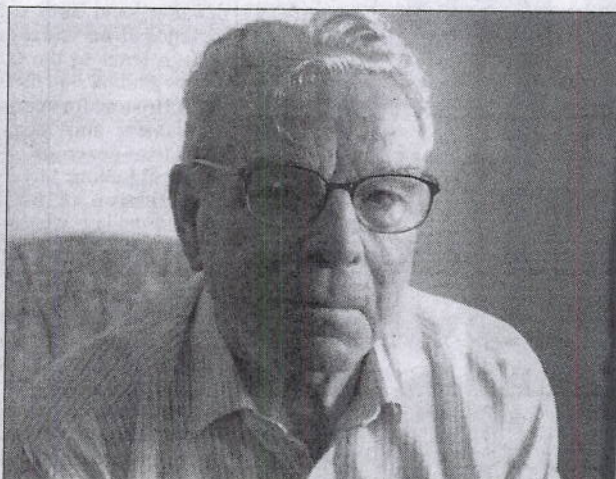
He said the cyclist was riding on the pavement, but swerved into the road and ran into him, knocking his glasses on to the ground, where they smashed.

the other side of the road when this bloke on a bike came off from the pavement straight into me," said Mr Priddle.

"I couldn't get out of the way, and I'm lucky it was just my glasses that were smashed."

"He stopped afterwards, but he didn't think he had done anything wrong. He blamed me for not paying attention because I'm old, which is nonsense."

Mr Priddle, of Barclay Road, said he had witnessed



■ HIT BY BIKE: Jim Priddle Photo by Grant Humphreys L0150310ghbike03

the police or council should lay down the law to unruly cyclists.

added. "Crossings should be safe for people to cross and not an excuse for bikes to get

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