

Bill Simpson

Diary Notes

In the Summer of 1997 Bill saw adverts in the Chronicle & Echo advising that CTC's Northampton section met every Sunday morning outside the Guildhall. On his first Sunday no one else arrived! On his second Sunday another rider turned up and told him that no-one ever turned up; anyway the two of them decided to go to Stoke Bruerne.

Next, Bill phoned the Northamptonshire & North Bucks District Association secretary listed in the CTC magazine - "Cycle Touring" - and his call was answered by Max Scott. The next Sunday, Bill rode to Kettering and met up with Max and the Kettering section. Through 1997, 1998 and 1999, Bill rode with the Kettering section on regular club runs and bank holiday youth-hostelling and cycle-camping trips, including the Mildenhall Rally. At the 1998 Mildenhall Rally he met other Northampton section members for the first time (including George Stevens, John Dunkley and Bob & Sue Hastings)

Bill went to his first Northampton section AGM in 1999. Activity was largely confined to meet-ups on Wednesday evenings at a rotating list of pubs so he decided to continue his regular rides with the Kettering section in 1999 and 2000.

In 2001 Bill volunteered to try to get monthly Sunday rides going for the Northampton section with the blessing of Max Scott (as district secretary), Bob Hastings (Northampton section secretary) and HQ. Sunday 10th June 2001 was the first. The meeting point was Hunsbury Hill Library and one other rider turned up. Then each month numbers grew: 8th July - three riders; 12th August - four riders; 9th September - five riders. And from then on it continued to grow.

For one ride, Bill planned a meet-up with the Wellingborough section and, when they met, that was when Bill's friendship with Philip Gray began. Their mutual interests led Philip to change from riding with the Wellingborough section to riding with the Northampton section.



Philip Gray

At the Northampton section's 2001 AGM, held at the Sun Inn in Kislingbury, several of the older committee members took the opportunity to step down and Bill and Philip were elected to the committee. They were joined in the next two or three years by John & Eleanor Weller, Brian Tunbridge, Peter Crighton and Ian Macsporrان.