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Two 'Friends' on one bike but no teddy this time

By Cathy Young

More than 22 years ago *The Archer* reported that Kit Friend, just eight years old at the time, had completed a 25-mile cycle ride for Friends of the Earth on the back of a trailer bike with his dad Melvyn and his constant companion Heartbeat Bear.

"There were hundreds of bikes there but mine was the only one with a teddy bear on the back," he told *THE ARCHER*-back then.

This October the father and son team (without the teddy bear) completed the Palace to Palace bike ride from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle, reliving some of Kit's cherished childhood memories, as Kit says: "...because it sounded like a great idea."

There was no trailer bike this time, but no bi-cycles either. The Friend duo, from Manor Park Road, rode the 45 miles on their beloved bright yellow tandem.

They left The Mall with thousands of other cyclists to ride through the Thames Valley to Windsor, raising funds for The Prince's Trust, which works with young people with a range of problems such as homelessness, unemployment and mental health issues.

"It's a charity that empowers underprivileged teenagers and helps to give them self-esteem and an independent start in life," explained Melvyn.

The father and son team raised over £645 for the Trust; a figure that was then doubled by a contribution from Accenture, Kit's employer. Their JustGiving page has now closed but contributions to the Trust can still be made through the website: www.princes-trust.org.uk/support-our-work/donate.



Now and then: Kit and Melvyn, above left, on the Palace to Palace ride this year and, above right, 22 years ago with Heartbeat Bear on their Friends of the Earth ride



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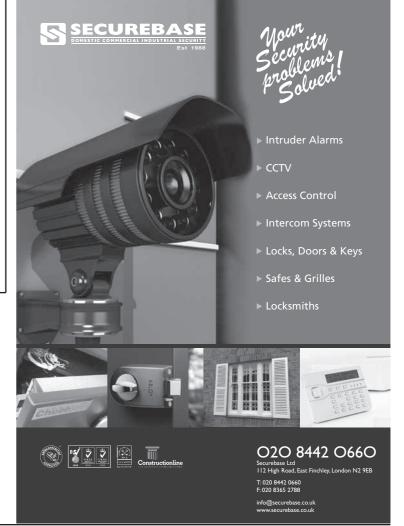
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