

Cyclist set to smash a record for bike riding

A WORLD record challenger for the most miles cycled in a year pedalled into Nailsworth last week.

Steve Abraham, 40, from Milton Keynes is ahead of schedule on a quest to smash Tommy Godwin's record of 75,065 miles cycled in 365 days in 1939.

The cyclist, who pedalled long distances since he was 15, has completed 7,644 miles.

Steve began his mission at midnight on Thursday, January 1 and has taken the year off work to complete it.

"I have started with shorter rides like the 195 miles from Milton Keynes to Nailsworth," he said.

"As the weather improves and there is more light I'll ride further each day."

Many people have volunteered to host Steve for a night before he sets off early the following day.

One such host is deputy Nailsworth mayor Jonathan Duckworth.

Steve arrived in Nailsworth at 8.15pm on Tuesday, February 10 and set off again at 5.30am the next day.

He is aiming to revisit the town in November.

Follow his progress online at oneyeartimetrial.org.uk.

Canine police badges for ret

By Jane Leigh

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AFTER seven years of pounding the beat, two of Gloucestershire's finest are enjoying their first taste of well-earned retirement.

German Shepherd dogs Yogi and Omar are putting up their paws after a canine lifetime of work, keeping our streets safe.

Yogi, who's eight, is now enjoying his retirement in the care of handler PC Lenny Mansell, who's in her 25th year as a police officer.

Lenny said: "I've done most jobs in my time in the police, but I joined with the aim of becoming a dog handler and became a member of the Dog Section in 2001.

"My first dog was also a German Shepherd, Sabre, who retired at the age of seven with a hip problem. Yogi has been my second dog, and I got him at 13 months old at Christmas 2007.



PC Debbie Shields, left, and PC Lenny Mansell are pictured with Yogi, who has just retired

"He came from Czechoslovakia and became a good all-round dog, working in tracking and public order."

There's no set age for the dogs to retire.

Lenny said: "It depends on how the dogs are. We take the vet's advice but by eight they've done seven full years of work and we think they deserve retirement."

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Please tell someone

FOR all the interesting funerals on *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* and the publicity for and against euthanasia you'd think we British had taken death and dying into our most intimate conversations.

However, while a forest of all the hands goes up at WI, Probus, or Rotary Club meetings when asked who has made their will, just a small scattering confess to

most half regretted they did not know what a friend or relative had wanted for their funeral.

Yet of these 60 per cent had not discussed their own wishes.

Perhaps this reluctance to talk of our dying stems from a basic - and very British - distaste for personal revelation.

But you can't blame us for avoiding talking about death: be-

licited mailings that arrive at my house showing smiling older couples leaning over the rails of a cruise ship, that are in fact urging me and my wife to take out a Funeral Plan... "in the event of..."

As a funeral director myself, I understand that pre-paid funeral plans is the approved way the larger companies can 'tastefully' promote their services.

But these plans do make some sense: funeral costs increase at five-seven per cent pa.; interest on savings at one-three per cent.

Solicitors raise

DF LEGAL solicitors of Holloway House, Station Road, Stroud, Glos, GL5 3AP (01453 757433) are pleased to announce that the results of participating in the annual Will Aid promotion during November 2014 mean that in the last three years since taking over the practice of Robert Smith (former in Lansdown Stroud) they have now raised in excess of £20,000 for the group of charities that be-