



**CTC Dumfries & Galloway
In-Touch News**

2nd May 2016



Dear friends, many of you will know that our oldest Member, Les Brown died peacefully on Monday 2 May, at D&G Infirmary.

Although in recent months, Les was failing and becoming frail, he was such an independent person, and resisted all suggestions of having Home Care.

Les was born in Wales, his father and uncle were miners, but following an industrial accident, the family returned to Lancashire and he spent his formative years in Bolton.

He got his first bike, at the age of 10 years, 92 years ago. He left school at 14, and worked as delivery boy.

Always a person who enjoyed the outdoors, he was a founder Member of the Bolton Workers' Sporting Club.

The Club combined seasonal Sports, cycling and walking, which was how he met his late wife Jess.

They rode solo fixed, but their pride was the hand-built, bright-red Merlin Tandem, which they toured throughout the UK, Ireland and Europe. In 1938 Les and Jess did a tour of the Rhine on the Merlin, and turned quite a few heads in Germany at the time.

During WWII, Les trained as a Radio Operator and then Navigator, photo-reccenacence, flying in a 2-man crewed de Havilland Mosquito and Passing-out with a Commission.

Post War, Les trained a teacher - They traded up from the Merlin to a Claude Butler Tandem, which they still had when Jess died 1994.

He had so many talents - published writer, poet, artist, photographer, and later took up computer-based photo and video editing. He loved Scottish traditional music and landscapes, in particular the Isle of Skye.

To everyone who met and visited Les, he was instantly engaging, with limitless anecdotes.

Les will be missed by us all. - Tom Hanley **END**