



WILLIAM WATES
MEMORIAL TRUST

NEWS MAY 2026

CHARITY CASE STUDIES

LE LOOP 2025 REVIEW

TOUR OF TOURS FOR 2027 ANNOUNCEMENT!

£6M LE LOOP FUND RAISING MILESTONE PASSED



William Wates



WILLIAM WATES MEMORIAL TRUST

The William Wates Memorial Trust exists to celebrate the life of William Wates who was tragically killed when travelling in Central America.

The trust is a grants registered charity set up in 1998 with a mission to help the most disadvantaged young people keep away from a life of crime and violence, and fulfil their potential. This is mainly achieved by supporting charities that engage young people through the mediums of sports, arts and education.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

We have had another busy and fulfilling year encompassing fundraising, supporting more wonderful charities, but also looking inwards to see what might be improved or done differently.

During 2025 the Trustees undertook a review of both the strategy of the charity and the operational delivery of our grants. I'm pleased to report that overall, it was felt that WWMT continues to move in the right direction.

Two key strategic topics were identified. Firstly, the importance of Le Loop as our principal fundraiser. This continues to perform strongly and in 2027, we

are excited to be trialling a new 'Tour of Tours' model, where we will be selecting iconic stages from the Tour de France event over the years, rather than replicating the exact route of the current year. Planning is well underway with the team, and we look forward to sharing developments via our website and newsletters.

Secondly, we discussed our succession plan. Rick has been asked, and I am delighted to say has agreed, to become Deputy Chairman with a view to taking over from me at an appropriate time. We are also stepping up our engagement

with the next generation, who are becoming increasingly involved with Le Loop and our charity visits. As a family we are very much committed to not only keeping Will's memory alive but also continuing to help young people optimise their life chances.

We have also reviewed our operational delivery of funds to our selected charities. We have a low-cost delivery model provided part time, by Jane Lowe, Trust Administrator, and Alison Franks, our Accountant, to both of whom we are extremely grateful. Applications are reviewed by Brian Wheelwright, former Director of Wates Family Charities. His analysis and wisdom are hugely beneficial, and we much appreciate his involvement. By keeping our core costs as low as possible, it allows us to continue supporting the fantastic charities we are involved with.

Like all small Trusts, we are committed to growing engagement with the charities we support. For each charity that is granted funding, there is a lead Trustee who represents their interests to the Grants Committee and builds a strong relationship by visiting the charity, maintaining regular communication throughout the period of the grant, and often beyond. Each year two charities send representatives to be actively involved in a Stage of Le Loop. Le Loop riders are also given opportunities to visit various charities on organised visits, to see for themselves the impact of the services that are provided in the UK by their fundraising efforts. This all means that as Trustees we take a strong



Andrew and Sarah Wates

personal interest in the charities we support, often maintaining long term relationships.

It is exciting to report that Grants totalling £458,854 were made during this financial year. We have been delighted to see how the charities we support have progressed. Several of them are show-cased in this Review.

On behalf of all the Trustees, we are extremely grateful to our all of supporters and partners and we hope that this year's Annual Review showcases some of the brilliant charities that have benefited from WWMT.

Andrew

EMERGE ADVOCACY: AMPLIFYING A 'VOICE OF HOPE' FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CRISIS

TOTAL GRANT OF £120,000 OVER THREE YEARS
LEAD TRUSTEE TIM WATES

Emerge Advocacy exists to bring a 'Voice of Hope' to young people who find themselves in A&E because of self-harm, a suicide attempt, or an emotional crisis. These are moments of intense vulnerability and isolation. Emerge is now building a replication model to bring support to young people across the country.

Emerge's specially trained team of staff and volunteers are there to provide immediate comfort and support during a young person's time in the hospital. This is followed by immediate, regular, and friendly follow-up support once they return home. Through this intervention, young people are empowered to engage effectively with statutory services and community organisations. They are coached in positive coping strategies and, most importantly, they connect with people who believe in them and their future.



A recent cycling fundraiser in support of Emerge's work, two volunteers cycled over 200 miles in a weekend, visiting all the hospitals where Emerge works across Surrey and Kent



Here one of the team uses a word game to distract a young person from their worries and help pass the time.



The team make good use of this hospital's playground - and often get beaten at table football by young people!

Currently, Emerge's teams work across Surrey and Kent. As a Christian charity, offering care and compassion indiscriminately and without agenda, Emerge has a vision to make their model available to be run by churches and community organisations throughout the country. Their goal is that no matter where a young person might find themselves in hospital in crisis, they will have a friendly youth work volunteer to help them set a new trajectory.

The 2025 WWMT Grant is enabling Emerge to deploy a strategic three-phase plan to reach many more young people. This began with a research phase, connecting with over 50 different community groups and churches to test the appetite and viability of a franchise-style replication. The results were overwhelmingly positive, which opened the way for phase two: piloting replication in three sites. Emerge are currently working on these, with two sites confirmed and strong leads for a third.

Next year will see the team open up the replication model so that churches and community groups more widely can be supported by Emerge to come alongside young people from their own communities finding themselves in A&E in crisis. Emerge's support has been shown to reduce repeat crises by 70%. This means young people are finding their way out of the revolving door of mental health crisis and hospital visits through having a well-trained volunteer to walk alongside them, carrying what Emerge call "contagious hope."

Tim Wates, the lead WWMT Trustee for Emerge says:

“Emerge are a truly inspiring grassroots charity - it is a privilege for us to support them as they seek to scale their activities. It is a wonderful use of hard-earned sponsorship pounds from Le Loop cyclists.”

ALL CHILD

TOTAL GRANT £20,000 SINGLE YEAR AWARD
LEAD TRUSTEE ANDREW WATES

AllChild changes the trajectory of children facing multiple, complex challenges. Their vision is that, if everyone works together, every child and young person can flourish in their school and community. To make this happen, AllChild identifies the children and young people who are at risk of not flourishing, enabling them to develop trust and mobilising a joined-up community of opportunity around them. They help those children and young people build the trusted relationships, connections and skills they need to achieve transformational social, emotional and academic outcomes so they can take on life positively.

At the core of this is AllChild's two-year Impact Programme, which sees a trusted Link Worker support each child to overcome their unique challenges and get on track to thrive in school and into adulthood. Link Workers are fully embedded in schools and the local community, enabling a coordinated, joined-up approach between schools and local organisations and services, so that every child receives the right support in the right way at the right time.

AllChild is becoming a leading place-based charity, having grown from a pilot of just three schools in West London to a national charity supporting over 1,700 children and young people annually. In 2024, they successfully co-designed and translated their model in Greater Manchester and are due to launch two new place-based partners in new communities in 2026 - crucial progress towards realising their long-term ambition of changing the system at every level from local to regional to national, so that every child and young person has access to an early action ecosystem of support and opportunity.

AllChild team in action: Brook, Denni, Clara and Jaiden



Community day fun

“ We are incredibly grateful of The William Wates Memorial Trust's generous support of AllChild, as we know that incredible things can happen when we work together, but it really does take all of us – schools, local and central government, charities and community groups, philanthropic partners. This is the AllChild network – everyone with a stake in children growing up well. *Louisa Mitchell, CEO, AllChild* ”

The William Wates Memorial Trust provided a £20,000 grant to AllChild, which has supported delivery of the Impact Programme with children and young people aged 4-16 in London across the 2025/26 academic year, during which children achieved some of their strongest outcomes to date, with 75% of at-risk young people moving out of risk in their social-emotional wellbeing and 75% of persistently absent students improving their attendance, with over half moving out of risk entirely by programme end.

AllChild at the House of Lords: Baroness Barran MBE, Louisa Mitchell MBE, AllChild alumni Luke and Ayo along with MP Josh Simons.



GIVING YOUNG OFFENDERS A SECOND CHANCE

**TOTAL GRANT £50,000
OVER TWO YEARS**

LEAD TRUSTEE JONNY WATES

We have recently concluded 2 years of support for Onwards and Upwards. The journey we have been on with them sheds some light not only on a brilliant charity but also on our approach to grant making.

We were made aware of them through a friend of the family in late 2023. As we got to know them it transpired that we knew one of their trustees too. The introduction led to an initial call with their founder, Steff Jones, to explore if there was a fit between their work and our priorities.

Through their XO Bikes brand they focus on helping young male ex-offenders avoid reincarceration, through the provision of cycle maintenance training and ultimately attaining work, either within the cycling industry or elsewhere. The refurbished bikes are then sold under the XO bikes name, each one resplendent in swag black livery, and with a unique code attributable to the mechanic that carried out the work. That chimed well with our focus to help young people in disadvantageous circumstances fulfil their potential. That they were generating their own income, thus reducing dependence on grants, was also appealing.

In the Spring of 2024, they completed a formal application for a grant. We have a standard template, to ensure we get the information we need, that all applicants know what's expected of them, and to help ensure all applicants are treated equally and fairly. WWMT is willing to support early-stage charities, something many funders do not do, as the risk of non-performance can be higher. In the case of XO, only recently founded, both Jonny and Andrew engaged closely with the team to understand their financial and operating model. Multiple conversations took place, and Jonny visited the charity at their premises in Lewisham, where they had a bike storage facility, a workshop, small office and retail unit in a shopping centre, all given pro bono by the landlord.



The unique code on this bike frame denotes mechanic number 2, which is Trey, and that this was the 27th bike he worked on.

Although the numbers of beneficiaries would not be large in this development phase of the charity, we liked the boldness of the approach and the possibility that it could prove to be a template for others to follow. With our recommendation the Trustees agreed a one-year, unrestricted grant of £24,000, with a second-year grant of £25,000, subject to set objectives being met. We were reassured by the commitment of several other well-known funders. Jonny assumed the role of Trustee lead, something we do with all the charities we support.

The XO Bikes story has been a happy one. The bike workshops are up and running, they have an excellent pipeline of bikes to work with, mainly from the Metropolitan Police. Over the two years of our support 75 men have been trained. Their re-offending rate has been strikingly less than the average – 6% versus the normal 48%.

Trey was one of the first participants in the scheme, in 2022 whilst in his early 20s having been released from HMP Isis. He did well, starting as a trainee mechanic. He grew into the role, impressed and progressed to become the Assistant trainer. He now leads all XO's youth days. Life is very different for him in a lot of ways.

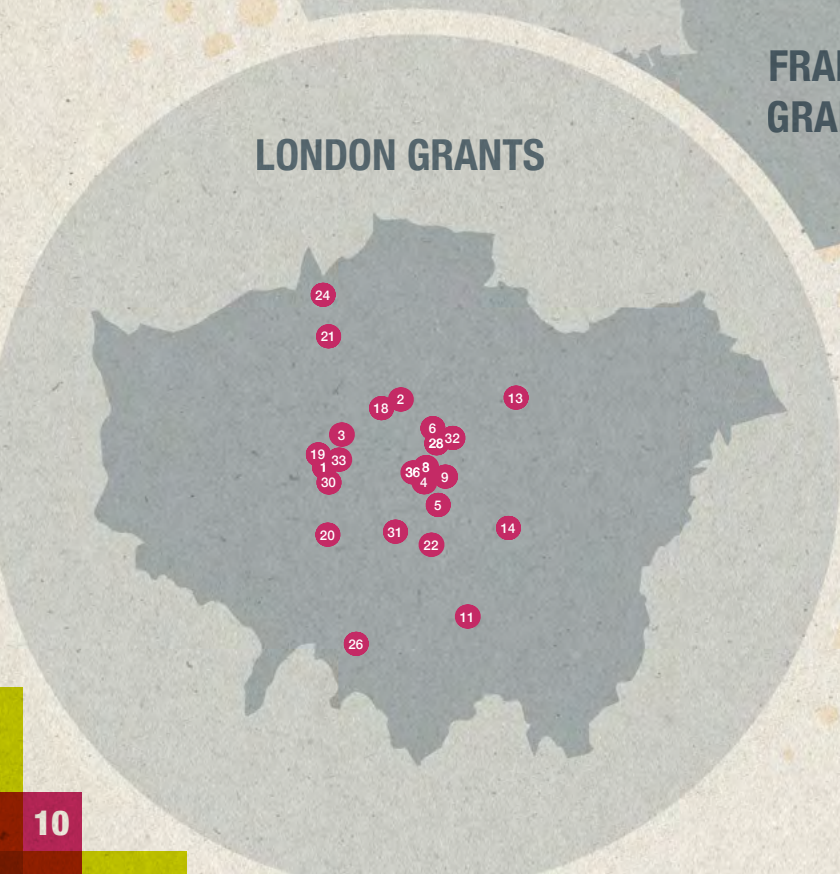
XO's progress in a short time has been remarkable, helped by an uncanny gift for publicity (they have been featured on the BBC, ITV and almost every mainstream newspaper). More importantly they are demonstrating that their approach significantly improves the life chances of the young men they work with, dramatically reducing re-offending rates as a result. The formula that has proven to be effective for bike maintenance is now being extended into other areas, notably barber shops.

So, if you have a bike you no longer use, or you want a bike repaired, look up XO bikes. You could get a haircut whilst you're at it!



Jason receiving a congratulatory hug from his trainer Eugene upon graduating from the mechanic course

**GRANTS
OVERVIEW
2025**



**FRANCE
GRANTS**

1	Allchild	20,000	London
2	Chapter One	20,000	London
3	Children's Book Project	10,000	London
4	Children's Literacy Charity	20,000	London
5	Community Cycleworks	9,981	London
6	Coram's Fields	20,000	London
7	EMERGE Advocacy	40,000	Surrey
8	Free To Be Kids	10,500	London
9	Future Frontiers	25,000	London
10	GASP Motor Project	15,000	Surrey
11	Kinetic Foundation	9,650	Surrey
12	Music Workshop	2,000	Bath
13	One Degree	20,000	London
14	Onwards & Upwards	25,000	London
15	Oxford Hub	10,000	Oxford
16	Pasco	2,000	West Sussex
17	Promoting Children in Plymouth	2,040	Devon
18	Queens Crescent Community Association	10,000	London
19	QPR in the Community	10,000	London
20	Regenerate	15,000	London
21	Saracens Sport Foundation	10,000	London
22	Spiral Skills	30,000	London
23	Sport dans la Ville	15,000	France
24	Strength And Learning Through Horses	20,000	London
25	Sussex Pathways	10,000	East Sussex
26	Sutton Volunteer Centre	45,897	Surrey
27	Switch Up	1,000	Nottingham
28	The Ben Kinsella Trust	20,000	London
29	The Eikon Charity	9,000	Surrey
30	The Honeypot Childrens Charity	9,531	London
31	The Huracan Foundation	10,000	London
32	The Kids Network	15,000	London
33	The Nucleo Project	20,000	London
34	THINK18	500	West Sussex
35	Together Our Community	500	West Sussex
36	UK Music Masters	10,000	London
37	Youth Adventure Trust	20,000	Wiltshire

The amounts shown are the grant payments due to each charity in the 2025 calendar year

FREE TO BE KIDS

**TOTAL GRANT £30,000
OVER THREE YEARS
LEAD TRUSTEE RICK WATES**



Every child begins their journey on a 5 day residential Thrive Outside

WHAT DOES FREE TO BE KIDS DO?

Free to be Kids help London children who are struggling with complex disadvantage, to feel included, adventurous, proud and successful – often for the first time in a long time.

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

Using outdoor adventures, intensive time alongside attuned adults and structures that help to build friendships and social skills, they work with children for as long as they need to build their confidence and better see their skills and talents. In turn, this work helps them to change their stories about who they are, and what they are capable of.

WHAT PROJECT IS WWMT SUPPORTING?

WWMT are supporting the Journey programme. Journey Projects provide more specialised and targeted support for young people, aged 14 – 16, with deeply entrenched negative self-narratives. These programmes of 6 small group residential projects, spread over 18 months, offer a combination of engaging activities, one-on-one coaching, and facilitated group reflection sessions to help particularly at-risk young people to better see what they are capable of and improve their mental well-being.

HOW HAS WWMT SUPPORTED?

The grant from the William Wates Memorial Trust of £10,500 x 3 years is supporting Free to be Kids to deliver their Journey Programme which includes funding residential accommodation, outdoor activity fees, food costs, project staff salaries, volunteer recruitment and training, vehicle costs and equipment costs.

WHAT IS THE NEED?



of children working with us are from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds.



have a history of, or concerns around, potential abuse or neglect.



are experiencing emotional, social or behavioural difficulties.



are at risk of or have experienced exclusion from school, or were subject of a referral to Social Services.

HAS IT BEEN SUCCESSFUL?



of children attending projects report positive indicators of improved self-esteem, social confidence and resilience



of children reported trying something they'd previously not thought possible



of children showed improvement in self-esteem and social confidence, with 77% showing very significant improvement



of referrers providing feedback reported positive change in the child's emotional wellbeing and/or behaviour after the project

WHAT DO THE KIDS THINK?

“ We learn a lot of valuable life lessons, especially with situations where you're scared or anxious, because the activities are purposely there to help you go through the emotions and think, in the future, “Oh, I handled that by doing this!” It kinda helps you think about how to cope if you get into tough situations. *Lauren, age 15* ”

Free to be kids is a great example of a charity that provides a prolonged and impactful intervention on the young people it supports. In some cases young people will only need the Gateway Programme at a turbulent period of their lives but others will need consistency and support throughout their childhood. Through the Journey Projects, Mentoring and the Young Leader Programmes, Free to be kids are able to offer that and this makes their work particularly powerful. Free to be Kids say it best themselves:

“ Every young person deserves a childhood filled with love, joy and adventure, but sadly, for many the reality is the stark opposite. Poverty, trauma and other adversities overshadow experiences and change the way children think about the world and their place in it. Our therapeutic residentials, mentoring and youth leadership programmes use joy, adventure and the outdoors to provide intensive opportunities to restore what is missing, helping young people redefine themselves to better see their worth, talents and potential. And in turn to rebuild the foundations of positive mental health. ”



Challenge and fun on the water

INTRODUCING OUR 'CHARITY VISITORS ON TOUR'

Given the number of projects we support who use sport to engage with young people, it was a logical progression to invite 2 young people each year from the charities receiving WWMT grants to join us on tour for a stage as Charity Visitors.

They usually ride as much of a stage as they possibly can, or work alongside our team at feed stops, encouraging our Loopers and generally helping out. Accompanied by one of their key workers, both of them take turns to talk to our riders after dinner about their experiences, the work of their charity and just how the WWMT grant has helped them.

THE BENEFITS ARE TWO-FOLD:

- 1 A young person gets the opportunity of a lifetime to come and ride a stage of the Tour de France, to challenge themselves not just on the bike, but to talk to the riders who are supporting them.
- 2 Our Loopers get to meet one of the young people their efforts are supporting and ask them, face to face, about their life and the work of their charity. They also have a unique opportunity to support them in their ride during the day, sharing the camaraderie of the peloton.

Our staff team and Loopers all pull together to welcome and support our Charity Visitors on Tour.
(L-R) Le Loop lead cyclist Ben, Abdel and Tom, Tour Doctor Sarmid



“ [Taking part in Le Loop] is life changing. I feel really inspired to start college now feeling that I can achieve things that I hadn't thought were possible – thank you for giving me this chance. *Tyrese (Westminster House Youth Club)* ”

“ It was really helpful meeting so many people from the industry I want to work in (software/tech). Also it has reminded me that I can achieve anything ... Thank you so much for the opportunity, it was amazing. I will never forget the trip. *Abdel (Football Beyond Borders)* ”

Our Charity Visitors on Tour are funded entirely by one of our 2013 riders. We asked him to share his thoughts with us:

“ The tour was a big inspiration for me. I really believe in what the trust does, and the charities they support. The William Wates Memorial Trust is well-governed by people with integrity, who are making sure the pounds and pence really sweat to make the biggest impact possible through grant giving. ”

After riding in 2013, I asked myself, 'how can I keep making a contribution, rather than just this one fundraising effort? What can we do with a relatively meagre sum to cause a ripple effect, both for the young person and all the riders who will have contact with them?

I feel quietly proud of the scheme that we've created together. The Loopers and the young charity visitors are not likely to brush shoulders in normal life but I think it's important to bring them together on the tour in such a supportive environment on a very levelling activity like riding a bike, giving them a window into each other's worlds. The Loopers understand more about what they're actually riding for and the young person discovers what is achievable, and hopefully that inspires confidence. Le Loop is a stepping stone for them. I'm really glad to be able to play a small part in this.

LEGACY FUND

This year, another of our Alumni - John Griffiths - approached us with the idea of creating a Le Loop Experience Legacy Fund for our charity visitors. Having been moved by their stories over several Tours, he was left wanting to know what happened next for these young people and wanting to see if he could continue to support them personally.

Together we've developed the concept to provide further training and development once a charity visitor has returned from Le Loop. Each young person is unique and will have different ideas as to what areas of their lives they wish to develop, so the Fund is flexible and will support a wide range of follow-up opportunities to enhance the personal growth and confidence gained through Le Loop. With up to £1,000 available for each applicant, this may include, but is not limited to, continuing with cycling, getting involved in bike maintenance or further supporting personal growth by developing their public speaking skills for example.



To be able to help the young people further develop their aims and ambitions upon returning from their time with Le Loop, whether cycling-related or not, instantly struck me as a superb initiative. And not only that, but being involved in managing this process is a great way for me to continue supporting the work of WWMT without having to turn a pedal, though I hope I still have a few revolutions left in me!

We're excited to see how this new initiative will continue to benefit our young charity visitors on tour, well into their futures and we're proud of John and his generosity. Chapeau.

Plans are already well underway for our 2026 visitors. We'll be joined by Connor from the excellent XO Bikes project (part of charity Onwards and Upwards) plus a 2nd visitor (currently confirming their details). We'll be doing everything we can to make sure they have a memorable and maybe even life-changing experience on tour this summer!

Vive Le Tour!

Le Géant du Tourmalet



LE LOOP 2025: TOUR REPORT

We promised a big ride in 2025 - but more importantly, we promised big impact. And thanks to our determined cyclists and their supporters, that promise was delivered in style.

From the Grand Départ in Lille to the final roll into Paris, this year's Tour was about far more than kilometres covered or mountains conquered. It was about riding with purpose - for young people who don't start life with the same advantages many of us have enjoyed.

Over three relentless weeks of heatwaves, headwinds, thunderstorms and summit finishes, our riders pushed themselves to their limits. Temperatures soared above 40°C in the north. The Pyrenees demanded grit on Hautacam and the Tourmalet. Mont Ventoux rose from the Provençal plains like a furnace. The Alps delivered 5,500 metres of climbing in a single day. There were 10-hour days in the saddle, finishes after dark, and moments when simply continuing to turn the pedals required enormous resolve.

And yet, the defining feature of the 2025 Tour wasn't suffering. It was solidarity.

Every rider - whether taking on a single mountain stage or the full Grand Loop - was united by one goal: to raise funds for the William Wates Memorial Trust, supporting charities that help disadvantaged and vulnerable young people build safer, brighter futures.

Throughout the Tour, that purpose was brought powerfully to life.

In the Pyrenees, we were joined by Jamal and his mentor Tom from Palace for Life Foundation, one of the Trust's supported charities. Jamal set himself the challenge of climbing the Col du Tourmalet - 19km at an average gradient of 7.4%. He summited with remarkable determination. That evening, he spoke to the riders:



I've come a really long way in the last two years. I didn't see myself scaling a mountain - but that's something I've done today.

His words were a reminder that the resilience required to climb a mountain is the same resilience many young people are building in their own lives - with the right support.



Later in the Tour, Tom and Abdel joined us from Football Beyond Borders. Abdel rode an astonishing 120km alongside the peloton. But it was his story that left the deepest impression. Once at risk of exclusion from school, struggling and unhappy, he found consistent one-to-one mentoring through Football Beyond Borders. That support helped him transform his trajectory. Today, he is in his second year at university studying software engineering and has a bright future.

From potential dropout to undergraduate with a clear future - that is the impact your fundraising makes possible.

These moments reframed the toughest days. When riders battled headwinds in Provence or faced the Queen Stage in the Alps - three colossal climbs finishing atop the Col de la Loze - they did so knowing exactly why they were there. This wasn't simply about completing one of the world's hardest amateur cycling challenges. It was about creating tangible change.

By the time we reached Paris - past Versailles, along the Champs-Élysées and under the Arc de Triomphe - emotions ran high. Not just because of the physical achievement, but because of what had been accomplished together.

Jamal tops the Tourmalet



Sarah and team members



Tour de France en fete!

THE FINAL FIGURE SPEAKS VOLUMES

£471,035 RAISED

In challenging economic times, that total represents the highest average raised per cyclist in the event's history. It is, quite simply, a stunning achievement.

Rick Wates, Chairman of Le Loop and Trustee of the William Wates Memorial Trust, summed it up best:

“ Our 2025 cyclists have smashed it out of the park... This is a truly outstanding achievement. Your support will give young people who face significant challenges the opportunity to make positive change. There's no better reward for your efforts than that.

Every hill climbed, every kilometre ridden, every training ride in the rain at home - it all translates directly into opportunity. Mentoring. Education. Safe spaces. Belief. Second chances.

For those who rode: thank you. *Your effort has impact far beyond the road.*

And for those considering joining in future - know this: yes, it's an extraordinary cycling adventure. But at its heart, it is something far more powerful.

It is a vehicle for change.

Vive Le Tour!

TOUR OF TOURS 2027!

While the world's eyes will be on Edinburgh for the 2027 Grand Depart, we've decided to do things a little bit differently! For 2027 – for one year only – we've created the 'Tour of Tours': a celebration of the very best stages in Tour history, focusing on the Tour de Force/ Le Loop years of 2006, 2010 and 2012 onwards ... with a few earlier gems thrown in for good measure.

Everything our Loopers know and value about Le Loop will remain: the organisation, the Tour de France feel, the sunshine, the climbs, the rest days, the feed stops, transfers, camaraderie and the brilliant event team you've come to know and trust.

SO, WHAT ABOUT THE ROUTE?

We've got our heads together and shared our wealth of experience and knowledge to come up with an absolute beauty of a tour. 21 stages of superb cycling – just imagine 'all the best bits' pulled together into an epic 3 weeks.

With 13 tours under our belts, we know what makes a great Tour. It's not just about stunning scenery, challenging climbs and picture-perfect French villages (though those matter a lot). It's also about variety, a sense of journey, and the relief of a fast 'easy' stage arriving just when you need it. We've chosen our stages with all this in mind.

We're also focusing on a higher concentration of our favourite hotels, fewer hotel changes, and minimising those long transfers wherever possible. That means fewer 5am alarms and more time for the bar, for socialising, and for recovering each evening.



We'll start in Nice, riding the 2020 Grand Depart stages that we missed thanks to Covid. It promised to be our most popular Grand Depart ever – and for good reason. Nice is a superb cycling location, with easy access, fabulous roads, views to remember and that unmistakable holiday atmosphere. At last we get the chance to ride these stages, and we hope they'll be as popular in 2027.

WHY THE TOUR OF TOURS?

There are a few reasons; firstly because the UK start has quite a few downsides (see below), secondly because we've been waiting a long time for an opportunity to make Nice happen, and thirdly because if you talk about something for long enough, one day you have to decide either to forget about it or to make it happen!

This idea has been around for years. Over beers at the bar, in event vans during long transfers, over cups of tea in winter ... someone always says: "Wouldn't it be brilliant if we could just pick the best bits of every Tour and stitch them together?"

Well, now it's "one day" and we're making it happen.

WHY 2027?

On paper, a UK Grand Depart might look like an easy win. In reality, it's anything but:

- The first 3 stages involve some pretty punishing transfers
- We saw in Yorkshire that most riders can tackle UK stages independently over a few weekends. That reduces sign-ups ... and that, in turn, impacts fundraising.

After years of mulling over the "Tour of Tours" idea, the timing finally feels right. 2027 will be a fantastic celebration of the charity and of Le Loop.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Nice Grand Depart, with the opportunity to 'add on' iconic Mont Ventoux
- All the big cols of Tour de France infamy: Ventoux, Tourmalet, Alpe d'Huez, Galibier, Madeleine, Crois de Fer and more!
- Includes a 1939 historic stage (the way they used to do it!)
- Includes a Tour des Femmes stage
- Very limited transfers between stages



THE TOUR OF TOURS IN NUMBERS:

STAGE	TDF YEAR	DATE	START	FINISH	KM
1	2020	Sat 26 JUNE	NICE	NICE	156
2	2020	Sun 27 JUNE	NICE	NICE	187
3	2026 ^{FR*}	Mon 28 JUNE	NICE	SISTERON	175
4	2016	Tue 29 JUNE	BOURG ST ANDÉOL	CAVERNE PONT D'ARC	37.5
5	2021	Wed 30 JUNE	SORGUES	VENTOUX	199
6	2018	Thu 1 JULY	ST PAUL 3 CHATEAUX	MENDE	188
7	2005 ^{R*}	Fri 2 JULY	MENDE	ALBI	189
8	2019	Sat 3 JULY	ALBI	TOULOUSE	167
9	2022	Sun 4 JULY	ST GAUDENS	PEYRAGUDES	130
REST DAY			LUCHON		
10	2012	Tue 6 JULY	LUCHON	PEYRAGUDES	146
11	2018	Wed 7 JULY	LUCHON	ST LARY	65
12	1974	Thu 8 JULY	ST LARY	TOURMALET	119
13	1939	Fri 9 JULY	TOULOUSE	NARBONNE - BÉZIERS - MONTPELLIER	245
14	2025	Sat 10 JULY	BOLLÈNE	VALENCE	160
15	2013	Sun 11 JULY	ANNECY	SEMNOZ	125 (lite 42)
16	1990	Mon 12 JULY	GENEVA	ST GERVAIS	118
REST DAY			ST GERVAIS		
17	2016 ^{R*}	Wed 14 JULY	ST GERVAIS	ALBERTVILLE	146
18	2012	Thu 15 JULY	ALBERTVILLE	LA TOUSSUIRE	148
19	2011	Fri 16 JULY	MODANE	ALPE D'HUEZ	110
20	2024	Sat 17 JULY	NUITS ST GEORGES	GEVRY CHAMBERTIN	25
21	2027	Sun 18 JULY	TBC: 2027 ROUTE	PARIS	100

FR* Femmes route reversed
R* Reversed route

TOTAL DISTANCE 2935.5KM

INTERESTED IN TAKING PART?

Head to www.rideleloop.org for more information. Sales open Friday 24th July 2026.



ABOUT THE WILLIAM WATES MEMORIAL TRUST

The mission of the WWMT is to support the very best charities engaged in helping disadvantaged and vulnerable young people to fulfil their potential.

The Trustees are Will's parents, Sarah and Andrew Wates, his brothers, Tim, Jonny, Rick and Monty, along with Hayden Bailey, who is an independent Trustee. They are aided by Duncan Straughen, Jane Lowe, Alison Franks, and Brian Wheelwright.







Each charity has a Trustee lead, or sponsor, who holds the relationship from start to finish.

WWMT has minimal direct costs, which means most funds raised go to the charities.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The trust relies on donations to be able to support the charities.

If you know of a charity that fits our criteria or would like to know more about how to support our work, please get in touch.

-  **ADDRESS:** Wates House, Station Approach,
Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7SW
-  **E MAIL:** info@wwmt.org
-  **TELEPHONE:** 07712 557110
-  **WEB:** www.wwmt.org (Charity number: 1011213)
-  **FACEBOOK:** [williamwatesmemorialtrust](https://www.facebook.com/williamwatesmemorialtrust)
-  **INSTAGRAM:** [wwmt_charity](https://www.instagram.com/wwmt_charity)



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Printed on recycled paper. Front cover image: The famous radio tower at the top of Mont Ventoux, will feature in the Tour of Tours in 2027.