



WILLIAM WATES  
MEMORIAL TRUST

# NEWS MARCH 2024

**WWMT BREAKS £5M GRANTS MADE**

**INSIGHTS FROM OUR CHARITIES**

**LE LOOP 2023 REVIEW**

**CELEBRATING OUR LE LOOP LEAD RIDERS**





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.



Andrew and Sarah Wates



## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

I am pleased to report that WWMT continues to thrive. We have now made grants of over **£5m**. This has been achieved by the amazing efforts from our Le Loop cyclists and significant engagement by our Trustees and small Grants team. In 2023 178 riders raised £556K, a new record. A special Thank You to them, and to Rick Wates, Sarah Perry and Kate Norris, who oversee the whole event.

In 2024 we will continue to progress our new policy of larger grants for longer periods. This enables our charities to have more confidence in their long-term planning, and for Trustees to strengthen their engagement with the charities with which they are involved.

We are now working with some truly inspiring charities, about which you can read in this Review. Trustees are prepared to take calculated risks. You will read about the challenges and success of individual charities. The common denominator is their determination to improve the opportunities and lives of young people.

*Andrew*

## GRANT: £75,000 SPREAD OVER 3 YEARS

**Purpose:** Extending the reach of Street Doctors to recruit more volunteer life savers

**Trustee Sponsor:** Tim Wates **Location:** London

Street Doctors is a national charity training young people how to save the life of someone who has been stabbed or knocked out in a street attack. The training is run by young healthcare volunteers – trainee doctors, nurses, and paramedics – who are committed to making their communities safer.

During each lifesaving session young people learn the same trauma first aid as trainee doctors, preparing them to recognise and respond safely to an emergency and potentially save someone's life. In every Street Doctors session young people learn about the physical and mental health impacts of street violence and how to work safely with emergency services, finalising their training certified as 'street doctors' who are willing to step forward and protect others when needed.

“ When you're out there and an actual problem happens, most people are just gonna put it off and say 'oh someone else will go'. But being the first responder means more people will be encouraged to go and help... which is very important.

The William Wates Memorial Trust has been supporting Street Doctors initiatives in London since 2022. At that time, street violence was making weekly headlines with police and youth charities warning of a tide of bloodshed that was ending young lives across the city. It was a crucial time for a new approach that put young people at the centre of protecting their communities, during a period when they were being stigmatised and blamed for violence in the media.



Volunteers  
learning  
life-saving  
skills

The grant expanded the capacity of Street Doctors volunteer teams, helping to reach a record number of young people in 2023. Across the country, over 9,800 young people were trained as street doctors, including 3,432 in London alone. This is more than three times as many young people trained compared to the 1,003 in London in 2022, demonstrating the grant's immediate impact.

The success of the programme also fuelled the growth of the 'Step Wise' initiative, where young people are coached to become peer educators who can then train others in emergency first aid alongside the Street Doctors healthcare volunteers.

“ Thank you for today, you've really inspired me, because of what happened to my dad. You've inspired me to save lives... like you were saying about being able to teach other people this stuff, I want to do that. *James, 17*

The increase in reach is a testament to the brilliant hard work of the six London volunteer teams, but also shows the scale of the issue within London. The support of the William Wates Memorial Trust enabled Street Doctors to work with over 500 youth organisations during the year to reach young people at highest risk. One of the most exciting new areas has been setting up new initiatives with sports organisations which can reach young people through football, rugby, and boxing.



## GRANT: £10,000 ONE OFF GRANT WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR MORE FUNDING IN DUE COURSE

Trustee Sponsor: Rick Wates Location: Bodmin, Cornwall

Chris Stephens, one of our Le Loop riders, lives in Bodmin and recommended KBSK for a grant. We are always keen to hear from our cyclists about projects that they care about.

KBSK, a community interest company, was founded by Adie Dove, a professional dancer, who passionately believes that dance should be accessible for everyone. Bodmin is known for being one of the most deprived areas in Cornwall with one of the highest crime rates. KBSK offers an open and accessible space, reaching hundreds of young people and children a week, working with families that are coming from financial and social deprivation, struggling with mental health and many complex needs. KBSK is a community gem which uses dance as a medium to fulfil potential, break negative cycles, enhance physical and emotional wellbeing and stop anti-social behaviour/ crime. Their impact locally is such that they have just been awarded £400,000 from the Youth Investment Fund to open their own building in the heart of their community.

Dance performance



Summer festival

The WWMT grant will cover the core cost of a Youth Mentor/ Dance teacher, Shanice, for 12 hours a week.

She started her dance journey as a pupil at KBSK back in 2012 when she was just 9 years old, and she grew up on the same council estate as Adie. She was inspired to continue her dance training after engaging in KBSK when the project first began. Shanice went on to continue her training professionally after receiving a scholarship to a prestigious dance school and after graduation she decided to return to her roots, wanting to share her learning and experiences with other young people and children who attend KBSK today. She shares the same passion for the mission, aiming to provide equal opportunities to every child.

This grant will support Shanice's future journey with KBSK, to enhance and develop her skills as a Youth Mentor / Dance Teacher and to reach around 180-200 children a week. This includes dance classes, youth social nights, outreach to council estates and an academy for gifted dancers.

“ I started my performing arts journey with KBSK at 9 years old, which has led me to where I am today. At a young age Adie started my love for dance, helped me in any way possible, and guided me to develop further training. My passion is the performing arts and I feel privileged to share that passion with the next generation. I cannot wait for what the future brings, whilst working alongside KBSK. *Shanice*

## GRANTS OVERVIEW

### UK GRANTS, 2023

### FRANCE GRANTS, 2023

### LONDON GRANTS, 2023

	ORGANISATION	GRANT	AREA
1	Abram Wilson Foundation	10,000	London
2	BayTree Centre	30,000	London
3	Community Cycleworks	20,000	London
4	Coram's Fields	28,000	London
5	The Eikon Charity	28,500	Surrey
6	Football Beyond Borders	74,815	London
7	Future Frontiers	65,000	London
8	Hounslow Action for Youth	22,000	London
9	KBSK	10,000	Cornwall
10	Mid Surrey Community Fridges	1,000	Surrey
11	Motiv 8 South Ltd	30,000	Portsmouth
12	Only Connect UK	20,000	London
13	Onwards and Upwards	50,000	London
14	Organiclea	27,000	London
15	Oxford Hub	30,000	Oxford
16	Palace for Life	90,000	London
17	Power 2 Teens	27,000	London
18	Queens Crecent Community Assoc	30,000	London
19	QPR in the Community Trust	30,000	London
20	Reaching Higher	24,000	London
21	School Ground Sounds	19,500	London
22	School of Hard Knocks	28,000	London
23	Sister System	28,000	London
24	Society Links	29,271	London
25	Sports Dans La Ville	15,000	France
26	STAR Scheme	69,000	Bristol
27	Street Doctors	75,000	London
28	Streets of Growth	27,000	London
29	Sutton Volunteer Ctre	130,654	London
30	Talent-Ed Education	60,000	London
31	The Kids Network	24,000	London
32	Villiers Park	29,940	Hastings

The amounts shown are the total grants awarded to each charity, sometimes over more than one year

## GRANT: £24,000 SPREAD OVER 3 YEARS

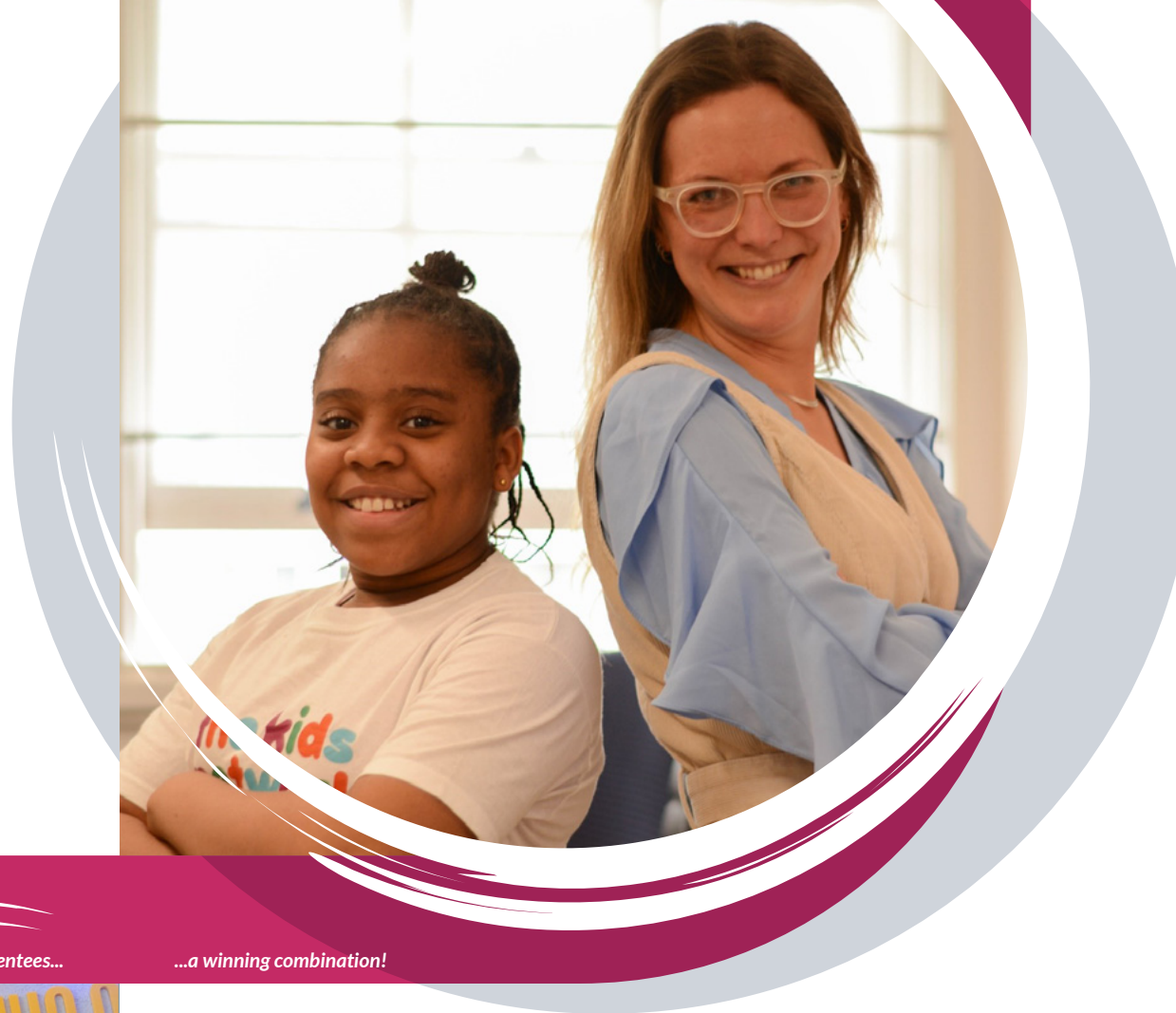
Family Sponsor: Monty Wates Location: London

The cost of living crisis for many of the young people being mentored by The Kids Network means their families are unsure where they are going to get their next meal from. This is having a huge impact on the mental health of everyone in the family, including isolation and anxiety which leads to serious welfare concerns in some cases. It is hard to imagine what this must feel like. Which is why organisations like The Kids Network do such important work.

They support at-risk 8-11-year-olds experiencing severe disadvantage at a crucial time in their lives - in the lead up to the transition from primary into secondary school. Through partnerships with schools in communities with high need, they reach children who often get little support at home. They match them with a volunteer, a professional from the local community, who they train and support to deliver weekly, child-led mentoring sessions. Mentors give children consistent, tailored support out of school and home, following a programme model that's proven to help those with complex needs. Each pair spend one year together, meeting weekly, having 100 hours of sessions.

It seems so simple but for many children it is literally life-changing. Here is what Mia (11yrs) had to say, "I felt kind of nervous at first, - actually I've never been with someone that I don't know, that hasn't been my family." And another mentee said, "My mentor has helped me with my mental health. I had lots of fear of going out, I was really shy. She has really helped bring out the courage in me. Now I don't feel worries in my stomach."

In 2022 they reached 475 young Londoners by partnering with 47 primary schools. 71% of the attendees were living in poverty and 59% of them were not receiving any support from any other services. Their impact statistics confirm the more qualitative impressions that this is a highly effective organisation.



Mentors and Mentees...

...a winning combination!



- **98%** of children achieved the goals they set at the start with their mentors.
- **97%** of children said they really enjoyed the time they spent with their mentor.
- **86%** of mentors said that mentoring has increased their belief that they can make a positive change in society.

For the digital version of the news letter the link below is a BBC news piece on The Kids Network.

[Cost of living crisis: Kid's mentoring charity sees spike in demand - BBC News](#)



*It's not all about the bike!*



*James and Christian  
from the STAR Scheme*

## THE 2023 EDITION OF LE LOOP

*By Kate Norris*

Bilbao – the jewel in the crown of Basque country – what an iconic city for a Grand Depart! Our first 3 stages of the 2023 Tour were a huge amount of fun, with the highest numbers we'd have on tour. Joined by Rick and Jonny Wates (William Wates' brothers), we had a strong sense of what Le Loop is all about, right from the outset: it's not just about cycling, friendship, camaraderie and challenge ... it's also about family, support, and helping those we can – whether that's out on the road cycling multiple stages of the Tour de France route, or by raising funds to help young people who are struggling to keep their lives on track.

After the rolling emerald green hills and azure blue waters of Basque, we entered France and said goodbye to those who'd joined us for the Grand Depart Loop, while welcoming new arrivals for the Pyrenees. But the highlight here was the outstanding talk by youngster James from the STAR Scheme (one of the projects supported by a WWMT grant) who left us in no doubt that what we are achieving here with Le Loop is so much greater than the sum of its parts. His tenacity, bravery, determination and grace were a lesson to us all. Humbled, we headed into the majestic climbs of the Pyrenees. Having been practically boiled alive here in 2022, this year we rode through chilly mist and fog, turning the meandering cattle, sheep, donkeys and llamas into slow moving obstacles! Denied the glorious views from the Top of Aspin and Tourmalet, the sense of satisfaction on summiting was no less. These are big, challenging mountains to climb and a huge achievement whatever the weather.

Once down from the mountains the sunny weather returned as we headed across France through lovely countryside and pretty villages. By now, those faster flatter stages were flying by as we worked in teams with fast moving, efficient pelotons that ate up the miles until we reached our first, much-anticipated rest day in lovely Clermont Ferrand.

We said goodbye to all our 'First Half' Loopers here and soon welcomed a big contingent of riders tackling the Middle Mountains (3 stages) and Mountains Week (7 stages), as well as our 'Second Half' Loopers. Nothing beats fresh legs on tour and it was wonderful to welcome familiar faces along with lots of new Loopers. We love the way that our Alumni are so welcoming to new riders.

We rode in the heart of the Massif Central with high temperatures but beautiful rolling climbs, culminating on stage 13 at the top of the mighty Grand Colombier.

Meeting the  
Pyrenean locals



We'd been joined the night before by our Alps Loopers for their first of 3 'big climb' stages into the Alps.

It was a huge pleasure to be joined by William Wates's father, Andrew, for a couple of days on tour – he rode with us, cheered us on and got stuck into helping the team at feed stops. He epitomizes the commitment and enthusiasm from the Wates family for Le Loop – something we all appreciate immensely. With every rider raising funds for the William Wates Memorial Trust, to meet Andrew is an opportunity to really connect with the origins of the Trust and our goals. He shared stories from 1 or 2 of the projects he personally champions, where he sees the effects being 'transformational' on the lives of these youngsters. Once again, we are humbled by both the Wates' family story and the many individual success stories achieved by the charities we support through grants. We all ride with a bigger, greater purpose as a result.

Stage 14 was huge – but the breathtaking scenery and glorious sunshine made this an unforgettable day. With 4,200m of climbing, this was always going to hurt, but the rewards were immense. Does cycling get any better? Then on to stage 15: another monster, made harder by the heat well into the 40s (one rider clocked 43.9 degrees – oof!). But the breathtaking views of the Mont Blanc Massif as we approached our stage finish in lovely St Gervais filled us with awe and made the achievement all the sweeter.

And so we arrived at our 2nd rest day. St Gervais has a long history as a spa town, and we were lucky enough to be in one of the more lovely hotels of the tour. Accommodation on tour is very varied – we like to think of it as an 'eclectic mix' that only adds to the sense of adventure! But it does mean that the more luxurious hotels are a massive treat and to be savoured!

With just 1 more week to go, we started with a super-fun time trial (treated as a race by some, but as a chance to loosen up the legs by others) before waking up

to the Queen Stage in torrential storm the likes of which you only get in the high mountains. Despite not boding well, the day miraculously cleared – the Tour gods were with us! After a monumental stage that culminated on the Col de la Loze above Meribel/Courchevel in sunshine for the early birds and thick cold fog for those who took a bit longer, we actually just felt lucky to have 'got away with it' on such a foreboding day!

The Mountains Week Loopers left us here and it was a much smaller band of riders who took us through stages 18 to 21 – just the 2nd Half Loopers and our heroic Grand Loopers. These were a mix of fast days, energy-sapping rolling climbs through the Vosges, fabulously decorated villages celebrating Bastille Day and a final killer climb up to Le Markstein for ice cold, celebratory beers. Job, very nearly, done.

And finally! Paris! Just over 3 weeks of cycling had taken us from Bilbao on a beautiful adventure where great friendships were made, and our riders supported each other through all the highs and the inevitable occasional lows. They don't call the Tour de France the toughest cycle race in the world for nothing.

But this year has been even more special than usual, because this year has been the biggest fundraising year for Le Loop to date, and by a significant margin! Thanks to our extraordinary riders and their wonderful supporters, the 2023 Tour raised an astonishing £551,669 for the William Wates Memorial Trust. Not only is that a record-breaking figure, but it also takes our grand total for fundraising on the Tour de Force/ Le Loop to over £5 million.

Since 2006, this event (originally the Tour de Force and operated just for the Wates' friends and family) has made it possible to support the best charities offering young people a safe haven, life skills, a network of people who care, mentoring, physical and emotional wellbeing and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Alongside our Loopers' incredible achievements on the bike, this is what they should be most proud of. What a year 2023 has been! Chapeau to you all.

*Kate*

Quintessential south  
of France scenery





We've been incredibly lucky to work with 5 brilliant lead cyclists since our formation in 2006 and each has brought their own unique personality, skills and experience to Le Loop. The fact that all of them remain involved and invested in the event as well as the work of WWMT makes our relationship with them even more special. It's an honour and a privilege to be working with such talented and genuinely lovely people, so we want to take this opportunity to celebrate them and show our deep appreciation for everything they have done, and continue to do, for us.

Steve Young led the way in the inaugural edition of 2006. His role started long before tyres touched French roads. 80% of riders in that family and friends' event had to buy bikes to take part! He was a constant source of advice and encouragement. Frankly he taught a few of us some of the absolute basics such as how to ride safely on public roads and how to change a flat. The first edition was a steep learning curve for us all. It had never been done before and Steve was the consummate pioneer. His patience, calmness and sense of humour helped many novices achieve their goals.

Phil Deeker followed his example in the second edition in 2010, before Le Loop was even a public event. He too supported, cajoled, encouraged and inspired an eclectic bunch of friends and family of the William Wates Memorial Trust around France. He's a man of grace (not just on the bike, but off it too), a philosopher and

a beautiful wordsmith. But ultimately, he's a superb cyclist who was as often seen at the front with the fast guys having a blast, as he was right at the back at the end of a long day in the mountains, gently guiding the last few exhausted riders in to the stage finish. But Phil always still had the energy left to create his infamous profile drawings for the evening briefings and finding just the right words to make a filthy rainy day ahead look like a gift to be savoured. He showed us how very fortunate we are to have this gift of being able to cycle the route of the Tour de France.

Phil totally 'got' the bigger picture of Le Loop. So often in those evening briefings he would remind us all how our efforts were enabling great things for those far less fortunate. It was Phil who reminded us that for too many young people there is no 'wheel to follow' into the headwind. He rode his final Loop with us back in 2016, moving on to focus on his own Herculean event: the Cent Cols Challenge. But Phil continues to stay involved with Le Loop and we're absolutely delighted that he'll be making a guest appearance on tour in 2024.

2017 was an important transition year for the event. Previously known at Tour de Force, this was the year we adopted 'Le Loop' as our moniker – a play on the 'Grand Boucle' – the big loop - that the French often call Le Tour. This was the moment for Gareth Jones to step up to lead the way. Having ridden the full route in 2013 with unassuming ease, he was clearly more than up to the job of



Steve Young



Gareth,  
Emily and  
Phil

guiding and supporting a field of cyclists through France. Gareth's authority on the road comes from his innate talent for cycling (all categories, from road to mountain biking, cyclocross to gravel, moving seamlessly between them) despite not being a full-time professional cyclist (he's also something of a genius when it comes to IT). With modesty and a total lack of bravado, he has the skill to make every cyclist feel valued and capable of achieving what they've set out to do. Gareth continues to join us on tour most years as assistant lead cyclist when his other work and life commitments permit and his dependable, modest presence is hugely valued and appreciated.

In 2018 we were over the moon to welcome our first female lead cyclist to the team. Emily Chappell had already published her first book about cycling (What Goes Around) and was still basking in the glory of winning the Transcontinental race in 2016 as well as the Strathpuffer. Having her onboard really showed the world we are serious about encouraging more women to take part in Le Loop. Her loyal following of women cyclists helped us to reach clubs and individuals who were looking for an adventure just like Le Loop to take them out of their comfort zone ... and Emily was riding alongside them as their No. 1 cheerleader.

Emily, like her predecessors, was more than capable of riding at the front of the pack when needed, or throughout the field supporting the bulk of our riders who aren't necessarily racing to be first back to the hotel every day - moving back and forth as needed and so covering far more distance than anyone else.

Her 2nd book (Where there's a Will) further established Emily as a fantastic writer alongside her reputation as a serious cyclist. Emily is a cyclist, writer and book commentator/critic in high demand and so when long covid hit her hard in 2022, it seemed like the right time for her to begin to transition some of her energy towards her literary career, (while still riding her bike as much and with as many people as possible). Emily is a true inspiration and has been a fantastic addition to our team, creating her own legacy.



Gareth, Phil,  
Emily and Ben

And so, 2024 sees a new chapter with the most excellent Ben Davies joining us as lead cyclist. Ben, as per our lead cyclists before him, is a cyclist of immense talent. An expert in multi-stage, self-supported events (placing 2nd in the 2019 Transcontinental Race and Transam Bike Race 2022), he knows what it takes to ride huge stages back-to-back. He's also the most smiley, lovely bloke you could meet. He's already thrown himself into the role, visiting the charities we support and meeting with staff and riders ahead of the Grand Depart this summer in Florence. No doubt he'll make his own mark on the event and we can't wait to ride with him this summer. He joins a legendary line-up of the very best lead cyclists out there and we couldn't be prouder to have him with us.

To all our lead cyclists over the years we owe a great debt of thanks. They have each brought so much to the event, supporting well over 1000 riders in their attempts to ride multiple stages of the Tour de France and realise their cycling dreams. We couldn't run Le Loop and raise the huge sums of money that we do without them. Chapeau!

### Vive Le Tour



Phil Deeker and the infamous  
'night before the ride' briefing!

## ABOUT THE WILLIAM WATES MEMORIAL TRUST

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**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 and Alison Franks.

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

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**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](mailto:info@wwmt.org)



**TELEPHONE:** 07712 557110



**WEB:** [www.wwmt.org](http://www.wwmt.org)



**FACEBOOK:** [williamwatesmemorialtrust](https://www.facebook.com/williamwatesmemorialtrust)



**INSTAGRAM:** [wwmt\\_charity](https://www.instagram.com/wwmt_charity)



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MEMORIAL TRUST



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*Front cover image:*

*Le Loop Peleton at the Velodrome de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, before the final ride into Paris*