

# UPDATE



## Its getting close!

**It is now less than two weeks before the start of the relay. A big thank you to everyone involved for the hard work in sorting the riders and the route and making arrangements to welcome the relay as it makes its way round the country.**

Through everyone's efforts we have already raised the profile of FCN and this will continue throughout the relay. Our Twitter profile is really increasing with a big increase in impressions, likes and retweets. It is great to see so many participants talking about the ride. Make sure to always include the handle @GAFT2018 to maximise the exposure. It will certainly be hard to miss Cookley's charabanc, our name for the support van, as it moves around the country. The van, kindly supplied by Bristol Port Company, is now fully branded with the ride logos and the logos of our travel cost sponsors Biotal and De Lacy, and is looking really smart.

A big thank you to Avonmouth Signs for the artwork.



And the riders and support staff will certainly stand out in the tabards, sponsored by Anpario, which have now arrived.



### Message of support from Charles Smith

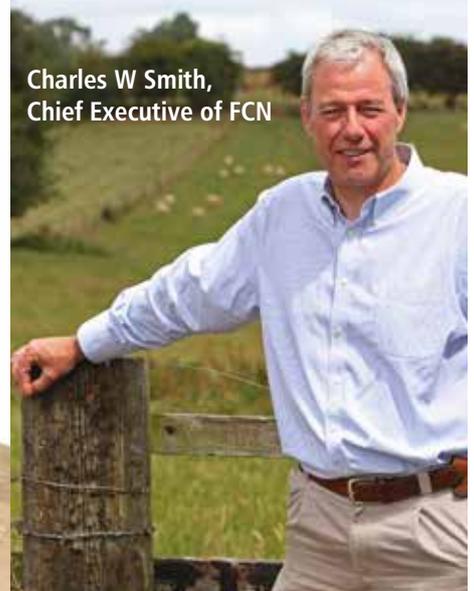
The Farming Community Network (FCN) has been supporting farmers and farming families for nearly a quarter of a century now. We began life at around the time of BSE and we were there during the horrific Foot & Mouth crisis of 2001. Today, we continue to provide practical and pastoral support to anyone in the farming community who seeks our help. **But this would not be possible without your support.**

Our volunteers travel over 130,000 miles every year in support of the farming community. The money raised from the GAFT bike ride will mean that our farmers can continue to reach out to those within the farming community who are in desperate need.

We have a dedicated staff team and over 400 volunteers who are keen to help you with any fundraising support you might need. Please speak to Vicki Beers, our National Partnerships Manager, on 01788 510866 or email [vicki@fcn.org.uk](mailto:vicki@fcn.org.uk).

On behalf of everyone at FCN, thank you so much for your support with the GAFT bike ride.

Charles W Smith, Chief Executive of FCN





## Is your logo on the website yet?

A new tab on the website identifies all the businesses involved with the ride from participants, to sponsors to the design company who are producing all our material.

If your logo have not been included, please send it to [victoria@bcfta.com](mailto:victoria@bcfta.com) and we will get it up as soon as possible.

## Another sponsor comes on board

Zinpro Performance Minerals are the latest business to become a sponsor of the bike ride, helping cover our costs and ensure that all the money raised on the relay goes to FCN.

Many thanks to Zinpro for their generous support.



## Let them eat cake

Staff at Cargills in Dalton have come up with a great way to raise money for FCN. On the morning when they are involved in the ride they will be selling cakes to all the other companies on the industrial estate. Who can refuse a nice bit of cake?



## Time to sort your route

Several companies have been in touch about planning their stage of the relay. It is up to each business which route they decide to take. It could be the fastest, the most scenic or the one with the best farmshops!

We have found [www.cyclinguk.org/journey-planner](http://www.cyclinguk.org/journey-planner) to be an excellent way to look at the options and plan the route - and it's free to use too.

## Lodders lawyers put pedal power behind fundraiser

Three lawyers from Lodders will take on the final leg of the GAFT bike ride.

On 31st July, Lodders' James Spreckley, Alastair Frew and David Lodder will pick up the baton at its Stratford upon Avon offices and cycle with it to the finish line.

Lodders has set-up a dedicated Just Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/loddersgaftbikeride>

James Spreckley, head of Lodders' Rural Team, explains why the firm is taking part in the ride: "The life of a farmer is unique, with frequent spells of lone working, enormous financial challenges and issues; for many, last winter's terrible weather was the final straw, and it put the farming community under unprecedented pressure.

*"For some farmers, it was just too much.*

*"FNC provides a support network which is so vital for those members of the farming community who are really struggling.*

*"Lodders knows FCN well and has long supported the charity; David Lodder is a trustee and treasurer of FCN, and it is one of the charities supported by the firm's Charitable Foundation.*

*"Lodders has worked with individuals and businesses in every area of agriculture throughout its 230-year history, and we wanted to be involved in this bike ride which will raise vital funds for FCN's essential support of the UK's farming sector."*



Lodders' cycling trio David Lodder, Alastair Frew and James Spreckley

## Looking the part

The team from Trouw Nutrition who will be riding from Ashbourne to Shepshed on 25th July will certainly stand out, having designed a T shirt to be worn by all riders.

Let us know if you would like the template so you can get your team kitted out too.

