

PRESS RELEASE 20TH MAY 2020 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN UNEXPECTED BUMP IN THE ROAD FOR BRITISH CYCLIST

Despite Covid-19 Hampshire man aims to continue his attempt to cycle the world for UK charities

Having first left the UK in September 2018, Craig Buckland, 34, has cycled over 22,000 kilometres through 31 countries to fundraise for those who need it most.

Setting off from Dover with nothing but his trusted two-wheeler and only the bare essentials in a few well-stuffed bike bags, he travelled from the UK through Europe to Athens, before riding the length of the African continent: Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, all the way down to Cape Town, South Africa.

Craig's mammoth journey is not just for his own personal experience however, but to aid and promote his fundraising efforts for two UK biking charities; helping to improve the lives of those who need it most back home in the UK and also in Africa. Having personally seen what an effective tool bicycles can be for those living in improvised circumstances, as well as, the positive effects of riding has on your physical and mental wellbeing, he decided to find some related charities he could help raise funds and awareness for. Both utilising the humble bicycle, Re-Cycle and Cyclists Fighting Cancer looked to be the right fit.

After completing the first part of his trip in September 2019, the next stage of his journey around the world has taken him to South America. Firstly, he tackled a short section through Brazil and Uruguay, then flew from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, right at the bottom of the continent to start his next through-ride – all the way up to Alaska, covering another two continents and another 20,000+km. From there, the journey will continue.

Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Craig's journey came to an abrupt halt and he is currently waiting out a nationwide lockdown in Bariloche, Argentina. He was slowly making his way north through Patagonia, in both Chile and Argentina, when the Argentinian government put the nation into compulsory quarantine, only being able to leave the house for groceries or to the pharmacy. In place for nearly two months, conditions of the lockdown were further restricted by only being allowed to leave the house on certain days of the week, determined by the end number of your national ID or passport, and a requirement to wear a face mask while outside your home. Leaving the home for exercise was also banned.

Despite many other travellers and tourists quickly returning to their home countries, Craig decided early on that he would remain in Argentina in hope that he will be able to continue his journey in the near future. The wait continues, but he remains optimistic.

The charities

The first charity, Re-Cycle, take unwanted bikes from the UK and re-distribute them to rural communities in Africa. Craig has seen first-hand just how vital bikes are to people in isolated areas; empowering them to improve their situation.

The second is Cyclists Fighting Cancer, who provide bikes/trikes to children who are living with and beyond cancer, in order to physically help with their recovery, improve their self-confidence, and bring family units back together through exercise and by spending quality time together.

So far, Craig has raised nearly £1,000 but, of course, he aims to raise much more.

Charity donation page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/travelling-on-tread>

Key stats - accurate as of - 20/05/2020

Kilometres Ridden:	22,350 (over half of circumference of the earth)
Countries ridden through:	31
Days on the road:	623
Metres climbed:	187,000 (equivalent of 21 submits of Mt. Everest)

Craig's side of the story

Craig casts more light in a short Q&A on why he started his journey, his experiences so far, why he decided to work with his chosen charities and how he's dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic while under lockdown in Argentina.

View Q&A here: <https://www.travellingontread.com/press-release-20-05-20-q-a>

What the charities have to say

Lindsay Hurrell, Fundraising & Marketing Manager, Re-Cycle say's:

"We are extremely grateful for the support that Craig Buckland is giving to Re-Cycle. He has so far had an amazing adventure and challenge, which is quite something. We hope that he will soon be able to continue on his journey once he is out of the COVID-19 lockdown in Argentina. We are always overwhelmed by the support that we receive from individuals like Craig, so if you can spare a few pennies and help him raise even more money we know he would be really grateful".

Rachel Wignell, Fundraising Manager, Cyclists Fighting Cancer say's:

"Craig really understands what we do here at Cyclists Fighting Cancer and supporting us while riding his bike on his epic adventure is absolutely fantastic and we can't thank him enough! Like many charities the current situation has affected us severely and we currently have 150 outstanding bike applications for children with cancer, so Craig's fundraising has come at a really crucial time. We wish him a safe journey when he is able to continue on his challenge and we look forward to following the rest of his adventures #keppedalling"

Photography

Full, high-resolution photographs for press use can be provided on request.

View gallery here: <https://www.travellingontread.com/press-photos>

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Charity donation page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/travelling-on-tread>

Charity contacts

Re-Cycle

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Cyclists Fighting Cancer

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