

Student **Ian Curry** plans to travel the length of Britain next year. Here's why...

Pedal power

The annual general meeting of the LSE Students' Union is the meeting where, among other things, the recipient of the Dev Cropper Memorial Award is announced. This year I was completely stunned to hear my name read out as an awardee for 2001-02.

Being nominated for the award was an honour. Actually receiving it is humbling and inspiring. It made me determined to undertake a project that had been at the back of my mind for some time.

I have always had a very clear sense of being privileged. I have had access to education that many in this country would be glad of, let alone those in less developed places. I have also been very lucky to have an extremely supportive family and friends. I was, therefore, very much aware of a need to give something back.

That is why, during the Easter break of 2002, I will be cycling from John o'Groats to Lands End – in other words, the length of Britain. Fortunately for my sanity on the long, lonely road there will be a team of us on this trip. It will take 14 days, each day requiring us to cover some 100kms.

We will be leaving John o'Groats in Scotland on the first day of the Easter break, no doubt taking revision notes with us, as it will be our final year. From the tip of the country we roll, hopefully downhill, through Scotland, via Perth and Edinburgh, and will take in the wilds of the Grampians. Into England we will be going through Northumberland and Durham, before plunging into the Peak District, through the Midlands, the Cotswolds, Somerset and finally enjoying the last leg in the counties of Devon and Cornwall.

Hopefully the green spring fields, the purple

tinge to the Scottish highlands, the barren majesty of Dartmoor and the breathtaking coastal routes will be lasting memories, and will inspire us to push on. If not, I can at least savour the fact that, by the end of it, I should have reached a peak of physical fitness! We will have seen a large chunk of Britain, hopefully not got aggravated by each other's company, and raised money for a range of charities and very good causes.

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I was never fortunate enough to meet Dev Cropper, the LSE student whose tragic death and memorable life inspired the award. I hope that this journey will reflect something of the spirit, zest for life and charitable nature that have been Dev's lasting memory to those who did know him. ■



Ian Curry

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The Dev Cropper award



John 'Dev' Cropper, from Trinidad and Tobago, was a final year student of Government at LSE when he died suddenly in March 1998. As a way of commemorating Dev at the School, his parents John and

Angela, with the Students' Union, established an annual award to go to a final year student involved, as Dev was, with student life, cultural and educational activities and/or charitable or political organisations providing benefit to others. The first recipient was Brendan Cox (BSc Government and History 2000), who used the award to spend more time working in orphanages in the former Yugoslavia. The second Ritesh Doshi (BSc Management 2001), was very much involved in the School's BP student tutoring scheme, working alongside teachers in inner city London schools.

From October this year, there are two awardees. Alongside Ian, the New Futures Fund is providing matching funding for two years, enabling another award winner, Shushoma Khatun, to be recognised.

Shushoma is a voluntary youth worker in Camden, where she promotes and encourages young people to take up educational opportunities. She is also involved in mediation work between children who are experiencing problems at school and their parents. A further

extension of this work has involved street outreach for young people with drug problems. For members of the Bengali community with no English language skills, Shushoma also provides voluntary help in dealing with paperwork, such as benefits applications.

The Croppers have also established the Cropper Foundation in Trinidad and Tobago to focus on public policy, environmental awareness and natural resource management, Caribbean writing, education and leadership. Email: tcf-cropper@trinidad.net

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