



## **Anne Mustoe 1933- 2009**

### **Headteacher, Cyclist and Writer**

Anne from Lenton attended Mundella school and read Classics at Girton before becoming headmistress of St Felix school in Southwold.

Aged over 50 and a widow she gave up her role as Headmistress and set out to cycle around the world. She recorded her adventures in *A Bike Ride: 12,000 Miles Around the World* (1991). she recorded that she had cycled 11,552 miles in 14 countries over 439 days, in which £4,898 had been spent on food, accommodation and sundries and £1,127 on fares. She had lost 23lb in weight.

The success of *A Bike Ride* led her to write *Escaping the Winter* (1993), a practical guide for those planning long holidays abroad. Then *Lone Traveller* (1998) an account of her second global tour, this time an east-west journey from Rome, via Lisbon to South America, across China (where she was arrested on the Great Wall and spent two days in jail) and home again. *Two Wheels in the Dust* (1998) concerned several trips in the Indian subcontinent in which she followed the trail of *The Ramayana*, the Hindu epic poem; and *Che Guevara and the Mountain of Silver* (2007) was the tale of a visit to South America along the route of the revolutionary on his motorcycle ride from Buenos Aires. There were also other, shorter trips, which took in the Baltic and the Santiago de Compostela way.

She was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1996. She disliked cycling in London but later became the founder chairman of National Byways, a 4,500-mile cycle route around England and parts of Scotland and Wales. Anne Mustoe set off on what was to be her last ride in May, 2009 still riding her trusty Condor, and was in Aleppo, Syria, when she fell ill and died in hospital.