

Pedal the UK for Patrick

by Nev Wilson

neville.wilson@essexmedia.co.uk

AN INTREPID trio are cycling the length of Britain in memory of a well-known Reigate man killed skiing in the French Alps.

Patrick Evans, 21, known as Patch, died tragically on the slopes of Val D'Isere after hitting rocks and sliding into a stream.

His body was dragged from the waters of Le Calabourdanne. He spent a night unconscious in a French hospital, but died on Saturday, February 21.

Patrick's parents Alun, 52, and Catherine Evans, 51, his sister Louise, 24, and his two brothers, Rory, 19, and Hugo, 13, were at his bedside when he died.

His uncle and two family friends are now preparing to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money for two charities dear to Patrick.

Francis Maguire, 48, brother to Patrick's mother, said: "After sadly losing Patrick earlier this year, we all thought this was a nice way to remember him.

"But at the same time, we will raise some money for causes that mattered to him."

A former Reigate College and St Bede's pupil, Patrick had Iga Nephropathy, an autoimmune

disease affecting his kidneys.

He supported and raised money for South West Thames Kidney Fund and Prostate UK, after his father Alun was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Joining Mr Maguire on the 970-mile slog are Pete Tootill and Rob Fenwick, both 52, who are training three times a week for their epic journey.

Taking mainly A and B roads, the three cyclists will set off on Monday, July 6, covering roughly 80 miles a day, and expect to finish in 12 days.

Father-of-two, Mr Tootill said: "It's really a bit of a Boys' Own adventure, it was something I'd been planning to do for a while.

"Patrick was a friend of my son and I used to see him a lot, at parties and when he'd come over to our house.

Mr Tootill, of Pilgrims Way, Reigate, said: "We're hoping to raise about £5,000 between the two charities."

Mr Evans said: "Patrick was a huge personality and was always busy. Everything we do is affected by the fact that he is no longer with us.

"We miss him in everything we do, and everywhere we go.

"This seemed like a wonderful way to keep Patrick's memory alive and to increase the positive things that have come out of his tragic and untimely death."

Sponsor the ride by visiting the websites www.justgiving.com/patrick-evans-prostate-uk or www.justgiving.com/patrick-evans



Tragic: Patrick Evans