

Rolling back the years to mark bike's birthday

By Jo Barber

UNIQUELY-STYLED bicycles were pedalled into Dursley to mark the 120th anniversary of their patent.

More than a dozen riders from Germany and Holland arrived in the town for a special reception to celebrate the safeguarding of the bike's design in 1893.

Mikael Pedersen invented the unusual looking cycles, which were then manufactured by RA Lister and Co Ltd in Dursley.

Pedersen had come from Denmark to Gloucestershire to follow the fortunes of another of his inventions, a highly-efficient method of separating cream from milk to make butter.

"Engineers Listers had taken up the manufacturing rights of this and went on to make Pedersen's cycle as well," said Dursley town clerk Helen Bojaniwska.

"Production ceased at the beginning of World War One.

"But recently, Mikael's design has come into its own again with makers in England, Denmark and Germany producing frames using modern techniques and with modern accessories."

The cyclists had marked the anniversary by cycling on modern Pedersens over several days from Dover to Dursley.

Around 14 of them enjoyed the re-



● Danish and German cyclists who pedalled to Dursley

ception with Dursley mayor Jane Ball, and were joined by members of a local veteran cyclists' club.

Ms Bojaniwska said over the following two days the visitors were

shown places in Dursley linked with Pedersen.

They also toured the collection of original Pedersen cycles at Gloucester Folk Museum.