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Contact us through the web site

AGM 24th Nov – Please Support

The AGM of CycleWight is on 24th of November 19.30 at the Carisbrooke Village Hall. This is always a good evening with the formal part of the meeting kept to a minimum. It is an opportunity to find out what the group has been doing and to ask questions. We hope to have our Cycle Strategy ready for people to view that evening.

Tim Wiggins from the Island and described as one of the best cycling bloggers in the UK is going to do a presentation. Tim recently made national news by being called a 'super commuter' as he rides over 5,000 miles a year to get to work. Tim works at Wiggle so that will also be interesting to gain an insight into how it works!

As usual there will be a raffle (donations for prizes gratefully received) and Dougie Saunders is to do a quiz during the refreshment break. What is there not to like? It would be great if we could manage to get over fifty people attending this year.

Access Fund

As reported in an earlier newsletter the Council has won another bid for funding to encourage Sustainable Transport. This is worth over £1million. As before it is to be split three ways: Tourism, Education and Employment. More details are coming out as time progresses. The really good news is that the funding is for three years so it should be able to achieve more than in the past when it has often been short term- one year. This made it difficult to plan ahead and have long term schemes.

The Council has been supported in their successful applications by a company called A to There, who have done an excellent job against fierce competition from around the country. IWC is one of the few Councils who have won four rounds of funding.

Meeting with MP

Tim Thorne, Chair of CycleWight and Michael Slater, of the the Ramblers, met with Bob Seely, the MP to discuss cycling and walking issues on the Island. It was a good meeting with Mr Seely being very positive. He took a great interest in the various projects in which we are involved. He expressed a real interest in the development of paths across the Island. We have now written a letter to ask him to write to the Council encouraging them to make a strategic network of paths across the Island a priority.

We look forward to more contact with him in the near future.

Cycle Strategy

The CycleWight Cycle Strategy for the Isle of Wight was published in draft form and distributed to a wide number of bodies for their views. We received over 30 comments, which have been reviewed by the committee. Various amendments have now been sent to Bob White, who has been writing the strategy. It is hoped then we will present the strategy to the Council and other bodies. Its purpose is to give a clear view of what is needed to make conditions better so as many people as possible are able to cycle safely and comfortably.

You can see the strategy by going to the web site and clicking on the link.

Please do note that the routes shown are just an indication of an approximate route in most cases. There may be many reasons why particular sections are not appropriate (land ownership/use, ecology, topography). Development of any of these routes would be subject to extensive discussion with local landowners and other stakeholders as part of feasibility studies.

Membership

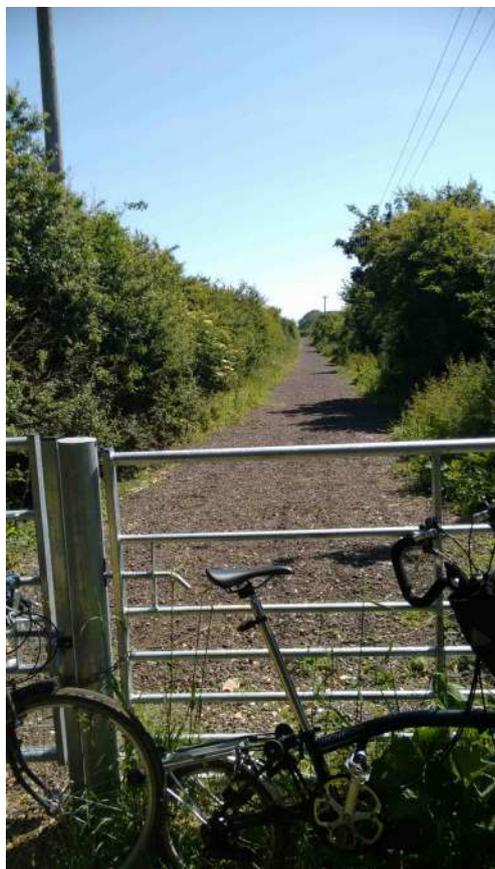
Membership is £5.00 per household, £3.00 Unwaged. Make cheques payable to "CycleWight" and send to: Mr D Jackson, Riffles, Sloop Lane, Wootton, PO33 4HR.

Or pay by BACS. Lloyds Sort Code 30-95-99 account number: 01247732 Please use your names as reference. Please inform us by e-mail cyclewight@gmail.com Subject membership

Bridle Path in Newbridge

There is a new bridle path opened that runs around the back of Newbridge, numbered S41. It runs over the track bed of the old railway line and links existing Bridleways S16 and S36. It is part of a 106 agreement, after a landowner asked permission to develop a solar farm on some of his land. It is a wonderful addition to the Rights of Way Network.

The owner is concerned that gates will be left open so it is important if these kinds of improvements are made to the cycling and walking infrastructure on the Island that they are well cared for by the users.



View from the western end

Permeability (not cycle clothing)

We have been awarded a grant from the Awards for All, part of the Lottery, to do a permeability study of Newport, in other words looking at ways to make Newport more walking and cycling friendly. CW will then work with IWC and Newport Parish Council to implement the recommendations. It is very

much aimed at doing things that are simple and relatively easy to implement.

The report should be ready for publication by the end of November. Lessons learned can then be hopefully shared with other Island towns.

This is separate from the £9 million pounds awarded to the Council to improve the transport infrastructure in Newport. We have been asked to be part of this but so far have had no reply.

Police – Bike Thefts

As many of you will be aware, over the summer there have been a large number of expensive bikes stolen. The Police have been in contact with us.

They have issued us with a leaflet that contains prompts so you record your bike accurately. It gives web address of two sites where you can register your bike nationally. There is also some general advice on how to keep your bike safe. It can be downloaded from our web site.

Everyone should have one

It is not too early to be thinking of Christmas and here is a perfect present.

The artwork on this mug was designed and drawn by Al at Potting Shed Cartoons, based in Carisbrooke. He is a keen cyclist himself and the scenes are inspired by his bike rides round the Island's beautiful and varied landscape.

W.J.Nigh & Sons Ltd, a local company with over 100 years experience of making quality items, produced the mug. Inside each mug is a scroll naming the various features to be found on the Island. Alan said, "Sadly there is not enough room to depict every lovely spot, but enough to give a good flavour (ho ho) of what can be discovered."

The mugs have already proved popular.

Wight Cycle Hire gave them as a memento to a group who they had taken out riding. They will be available at



the AGM for sale.

Village shop. A hub for cyclists

Cycle stand pillars, which have tethered tools, a pump and pressure gauge for puncture repairs, have been provided outside Chale Green Stores to cater for the ever-growing number of bike riders, who are made welcome



there for a cuppa and the vital slice of cake to boost flagging pedal-power.

It is a regular stopover for members of the Isle of Wight's Wayfarers Cycle Touring Club and West Wight Wheelers, as well as the many mainland visitors and Island riders enjoying the

IW's network of cycle routes.

The hub was made possible by an initiative from local community charity Sustainable Chale Ltd in partnership with Chale Parish Council and the proprietors of the village stores, Chris Smith and Jo Hofmann.

Malcolm Groves, of Pyle Shute, Chale, a co-director of Sustainable Chale Ltd, said: "Chale Parish Council submitted a successful planning application on our behalf for the cycle repair pillars, which reflects our support for sustainable community projects and will enhance the growing use of our village shop by visiting cyclists and the Island's many enthusiasts."

Mr Smith added: "Jo and I were pleased to make space available outside our village stores for the new facility. We welcome the growing number of cyclists who use our café and we are more than happy to express our thanks to them by providing this much-needed bike hub."

The hub was officially inaugurated on Saturday 9 September by the Isle of Wight's international cycling ace, Adam Holleyman.

Also present in Chale Green for the official opening – perhaps to test the spanners and screwdrivers – was Island inventor Dan Roberts, with his Tremendously Transcendent Tricycle; a working wooden wonder created from recycled materials.

Mike Starke

Road Safety

Some of you may well have seen the new mats bought by Cycling UK for each constabulary. This is a mat, which shows the correct distance that car drivers should overtake cyclists. In the Highway Code it does state, "give motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car." It is sometimes difficult to believe that when cycling on the Island with its many narrow or busy roads.

CycleWight have written to Hampshire Police to ask for it to be brought to the Island. We suggested that as a start it could be used during the Cycle Fest week. We did get a reply saying that no date had been set. This is disappointing, as it has been already used in several other places on the mainland.

West Midlands' Police have gone one step further and have been stopping drivers who have been passing cyclists too closely and offering them an education programme using the mat. Those who refuse and those who were very close have been prosecuted for driving without due care and attention. As it received such wide publicity Police said it was quite noticeable in a very short time how drivers behaviour changed.

Is there a place which you think is particular dangerous for cyclists? A junction, a road where cars regularly pass too close, a mini roundabout which is difficult to negotiate etc. Please let CW know. Send a message also to Island Roads and the Road Safety Team at IWC.



Cycle Fest 2017

CycleWight as part of the Cycle Fest organised a Cyclists' Breakfast in Newport at our favourite location at the junction of Quay Street and Sea Street. As before it was well attended though sadly many people went past without stopping. It is time possibly to take some councillors down to the junction to see the number of cyclists who pass by. It would show how popular cycling is. CW would like to thank Bicycle Island app for their support, which is part of the Isle of Wight



Council Access Fund Programme.

Members of the Committee attended the launch event at Northwood Park. There were mixed reviews from some but as a group we found it a good opportunity to get to talk to people about cycling. People were impressed by the work the group is doing. From this there have been several new people join and others saying they intend to come to the AGM.

Rights of Way

The Rights of Way team has created a map of the local Rights of Way on the Island.

The map not only highlights the Rights of Way but paths, which are made accessible by the landowners. (permissive paths) This means that it is now possible to plot a route much more easily.

<https://www.iwight.com/LocalViewPub/Sites/ro/w/> It should also help people not to ride on footpaths, which is illegal. To find the page go to Public Rights of Way section on the IWC web site and look for Leisure Map

On the page there is 'The Map Features' section, which provides a key to the

various designations of path. CycleWight are contacted several times a year by people asking us to point out certain tracks are footpaths and to ask cyclists not to ride on them. Lately St Helen's seawall and Gurnard to Thorness. In cyclists defence it is often very confusing to know what path is what designation. This solves the problem.

The possibilities of making a more comprehensive bridleway network for the Island was one of the issues we raised with Bob Seely, MP.

If anyone has a suggestion of a path that maybe people think could do with re-designating ie footpath to bridle path please let us know.

Bicycle Island App

Some of you may be aware of that there is now a Bicycle Island app, which centres around the Cowes to Newport path. This is an exciting development, as it is the first 'smart cycling corridor' in the country. You can sign up by using a smartphone, just look on the app store for Bicycle Island.



It has two purposes. Firstly it is meant to encourage people to cycle. It records journeys along the track. The app sets regular distance challenges for the community to aim at. Every user's journey along the cycle route



contributes to the overall target. If the target is reached a local Isle of Wight charity gets a donation. So far charities such as the IW Foodbank and the Alzheimer Café have benefited. Red Funnel have been a very generous supporter. There is a facility to create teams to add to the competitiveness and

fun of the app

The second way the app works is aimed at visitors to the Island who can use the app to find out about their journey along the track with interesting information.