



Route 22 is go

Route 22 the route from Ryde to Freshwater got a huge boost, when as part of a lottery bid, funding has been made available for the construction of the route from Newport to Yarmouth. The route will be mainly off road, which hopefully will mean that it will have the same level of use as the Cowes to Sandown route. It can be anticipated that the Island will become even more of an attraction for sustainable tourism. The work is planned to be completed within three years.

Junior Cyclist of the Year

As part of Bike Week CycleWight with the help of the Council have organised a " Junior Cyclist of The Year. "

There was a bike as a prize, from the Bike Shed. The competition was open to 9 to 13 year olds. It was done in conjunction with the events below as a way of promoting cycling,

- 1) Bike to School Week (run by the Road Safety Unit)
- 2) The Island Youth Cycling Club (www.iwycc.co.uk)
- 3) Bike Wight Scheme (to be piloted at Nodehill Middle)
- 4) Street Rider (Cycle Training in Schools)

The winner was William Rogers. This a heart warming story as Will was not a confident cyclist but he has gained in confidence and now can be found riding through Newport to go to Trinity Middle School every day. He received his bike at the Bike Shed at Arreton with his parents. Will was very excited as he had not had such a new bike before. The V brakes took a bit getting used to though!



Above Val Lawson presents the bike to Will

CycleWight Action

26th Feb Sustrans maintenance day
23rd April Organised ride for St Georges' Day Celebrations, Cowes
30th April Issued C/W Material at Wayfarers' Randonnee
25th April/ 9th May attended Cowes Community Partnership meetings
26th May Attended Cycle Forum
Planned new round Cowes route using R23. Applying for funding to produce map of round Cowes route.
Organising with School Travel Plan Officer IW Junior Cyclist of the Year
13th June. Cowes Community Partnership Meeting
21st June GKN Bikers' Breakfast
24th June IW Junior Cyclist of Year Prize Giving
6th July QTP Questionnaire Completed
11th July Cowes Community Partnership Meeting
12th July I.W. Council Cycle Forum
14th July Read Bay Action Plan
19th July Committee Meeting

News from the Council

The Local Transport Plan being adopted and is on the Council website at www.iwight.com/transport. The Plan includes specific references to the advantages of cycling as part of the five year strategy and includes an Annex entitled "Smarter Choices", which sets out the Councils approach to walking, cycling, travel to work, school and the links to education and health. The Plan is currently being printed and hard copies will be sent to a broad range of groups and individuals, including CycleWight, all schools, libraries, Elected Members, Transport operators, Town and Parish Councils etc.

New Cycle Route

R23 has been extended from Arctic Road to Park Road in Cowes. This links all the schools in Cowes to the Cycle Track via joint use paths and quieter roads. The route is signed and improvements have been made at Park Road.

Route: Arctic Rd, Smithards Lane, St Faiths Rd, Love Lane, dual use path to Park Rd, Parklands Avenue, Crossfield Avenue, Baring Rd.

Solent Middle School has been an intrinsic part of this and has completed a School Travel Plan last year. More pupils are cycling to school and using the new cycle lane in Baring Road. Pupils are very keen to walk or cycle to School but there is still a need to educate the parents into letting them. Sadly some cars are parking or swerving into the cycle lane!!!

This route has also enabled CycleWight to plan a new circular route round Cowes avoiding most of the hills and main roads. We are seeking funding to pay for art work for a map of the route.

Events

16th-24th Sept Island Cycling Festival
Sat 16th Sept Ride from opposite Northwood Garage to Launch at Church Litten Newport, 1100
Frid 22nd Sept Display in Newport.
Sun 8th Oct New Forest Gridiron ride
Frid 24 Nov Cyclewight AGM
Weds 27th Dec Mince Pie Ride

Snippets

Flashing Now Legal- all is revealed The British Standard for cycle lamps was amended in 1995 to recognise LED as well as filament light sources. Astonishingly it was only in November 2005 that the law took account of this, making it legal to use LEDs as sufficient approved lighting (front or rear). In the intervening 10 years most of us acquired such lights, and we saved a fortune in buying batteries while finding the reliability much greater.

However the regulation change is not simple, as the amended BS 6102/3 still covered steady lamps and not flashers.

Either you may use a light marked BS 6102/3 in its steady mode,

Or you may use a flasher which need not be so marked, but must flash at least once and not more than four times per second with a brilliance of at least four candela.

So wots a candela ??? We asked A Lighthouse Engineer.

"The candela is the SI unit of photometry (light measurement) and evolved from the standard candle, used in photometry until the 1920s.

All other photometric units are derived from the candela. For example the luminance, or brightness of a light source can be quoted in candelas per square centimetre. Light intensity can be interpreted in terms of range for given visibility conditions. 4 candelas represents a range of just under 2 miles in good visibility (when you can see for 10 miles in daylight). Just for comparison the lighthouse at St Catherine's Point has an intensity of some 700,000 candelas giving a range of about 29 (statute) miles."

Well that's alright then.

Thanks

The Cowes Rotary Club that donated £20 to the group so as to give out bells to cyclists.

Congratulations

Sue Marshall, the Cycling Officer, has recently become married to Phil Cracknell and is now known by her married name. We wish them well. Her new e mail address is Susan.Cracknell@IOW.gov.uk

Highway Code Threat

Proposed changes to the Highway Code instructing cyclists to use cycle routes and cycle facilities could affect cyclists when in conflict with other road users. It may also encourage drivers' attitude that cyclists should not be on the road. 11,000 have responded to the CTCs campaign. See www.ctc.org.uk Highway Code Campaign web page for the latest news.

Members Action

- See CTC website for Highway Code Campaign
- Help at Wayfarers' Randonnee next year. Phone Nick Saunders 730061
- Can you help assess any on road or off road cycle route for safety and ease of use? Training provided. Contact Lee Skinner at Rights of Way tel 837230
- Report road defects to tel 823777
- Attend Northwood bike ride, 16th Sept.

Boost

Helen Randall from the Council writes, "The Isle of Wight Council has run a 'Cycle to Work' Scheme for its employees for the second year running. Almost as popular as the first time around, the scheme encourages employees to cycle to work and save themselves money in Tax and National Insurance payments in the process. This excellent initiative is one of the Government's Salary Sacrifice Schemes, allowing employees to sacrifice an amount from their pay each month which is then treated as free of tax. Savings depend on individual circumstances but are generally 31%, or - if you are a higher rate tax payer - 41%.

Technically, the employee hires the cycle from their employer over an 18 month period and has the opportunity to buy it at the end for a small additional payment. Employees can choose a cycle of their choice as well as accessories from local cycle retailers - this includes a whole range of different cycles including electric and folding cycles. The scheme, which is run through a company called BOOOST, saw 40 employees join up earlier this summer compared to 49 last summer. If other Island businesses are interested in running a scheme for their employees they should contact BOOOST on 01903 889996 or go to www.boost.uk.com Cycle retailers on the Island who have not already signed up to BOOOST may wish to so that they can benefit from future schemes. "

Bikeline Guides

if you are thinking of touring in Europe you might want to check out these guides. They are spiral bound (fit nicely into your map case) and include very detailed maps (1:75,000) of hundreds of long distance routes in Europe. In the back of each guide is a comprehensive list of accommodation for every town and village along the route. These guides are originally published in German but there is no need to read the text as the

maps are so detailed. Some have also been translated into English. I have found them invaluable. See www.esterbauer.com for a list of publications. Some can also be ordered through Amazon.

The Island Youth Cycling Club

Due to increased popularity we are currently seeking adult cycling enthusiasts who are willing to accompany young cyclists on our events. Our rides usually take place once a month on a Sunday afternoon (the nearest Sunday to the 20th usually) and we are trying to pick routes all over the Island. We will be at the County show, Church Litten Park (16 Sept) Pitt Farm (17 Sept), Big Day Out (8th Oct) & Wight Air (25-29 Oct). From then we shall start our usual rides again. Potential volunteers can contact Jan or Mike Penketh on 882381 please!

From the Saddle

"We know the 4/5 star hotels have 80% occupancy all year round and they are not dependent on coaches. We know people coming on walking and cycling holidays are the mainstay all year round." This is part of the quote by Andy Sutton the Leader of the Council that managed to enrage so many people earlier in the year about coach parties and their part in the tourism economy. It was good to see that cycling was recognized as an intrinsic and important part of the tourism industry. It is several years ago that the countryside commission did do a survey and found that cyclists on holiday did contribute more to the local economy than other types of tourists. Just before this column was written there was a phone call at home from a marketing company saying they were collecting information for a client about cycling and the cycle routes on the Island. After asking questions about the routes on the Island, the person said that he himself had ridden the Cowes to Sandown route and had had the most wonderful day. (When I asked who was he representing he became very coy but said it was a large well known company!)

On a recent ride in the afternoon from Cowes to Newport I passed 35 cyclists in the 15 minutes from one end to the other and this was just individuals and pairs and not the Wayfarers ride getting lost! In the morning on the same track it is common to count between 15 and 20 cyclists commuting. All these points lead to the conclusion investing in cycling is an important part of the strategy for the Island. It does improve the local tourism economy and also, much under rated, the health of people who live here it also improves the quality of the environment.

The Council must be congratulated for writing and approving a strong cycling section in the Local Transport Plan. On other matters it is good to see that things which may be considered as small are being done. For example the section of the Cowes to Newport route at Dodnor Lane which floods often in winter has had an additional drain added to help. Members of CycleWight

CycleWight Patron

Cyclewight are very happy to welcome Celia Imrie as our Patron. She is a very enthusiastic supporter of CycleWight. She has noticed the work of the group and when was contacted she was pleased to lend her name to the group. We enjoyed meeting her at Northwood Park on 23rd April where she launched the Cowes Recreational Cycle Ride. Unfortunately Celia's folding bike had a puncture. This did not stop her joining us on the ride; undeterred she rode a bike which was for sale on one of the numerous stalls !

must be praised for the last 10 years promoting these ideas but it is good to give the Council credit too for seeing the worth of cycling.

With so much happening exciting times lie ahead.

Be there

The Medham link in Northwood has long been part of the campaign for the group. This route is a clear demonstration that there is a feasible alternative to driving into Newport. A ride from here on Sat 16th September at 11.00 will be part of the launch of the Cycling Festival. If thirty or forty people are there gathered before the ride this would send of powerful message to everyone as well as make a good photo opportunity.

Inspiration

Val and Alec Lawson have been on another one of their safaris and pass on some information for those of you looking for something different.

"8 Ferries + 12 Trains + 8 Buses = I.W. to Islay
To get from the I.W. to Prestwick (South of Glasgow) with 2 folded bikes and luggage we went on 1 ferry, 1 bus and 4 trains, without a hitch.

Ayrshire was excellent for cycling. Sustrans R7 goes along the coast and bikes go on all trains. There are quiet lanes through rolling countryside. The CTC have a booklet of circular routes. There are many places to visit relating to Robert Burns' life. Arran is hilly but the circular coast road has flat sections and frequent places for refreshment. The roads are quiet despite being a day trip from Glasgow. Mull of Kintyre feels like another island and is fairly hilly. Islay is flatter and feels more remote. Islay attracts visitors all year round due to its whisky and wildlife. We were lucky to see all the views, in good weather."

For those of you inspired by this we look forward to hearing from Sally Evensen who is off to Slovenia in the next few weeks. Using plane, bus, train and ferry!

BOB' s

For those of you with grand children you will have heard of Sponge Bob, or if you are an Autumn Tint Bobby will be name with which you will be familiar The Island is embracing a new type of Bob, **Bobbies on Bikes**. Cowes Town Council has put some money towards equipping the Police with bikes to move around quickly during such events as Cowes Week. There are several other places on the Island too where they can be found. The PC's trained to various standards depending on their role. Some officers do much more of their work on a bike. It is recognized though in many circumstances a bike responds quicker to an event than a car, and reach places where cars cannot go. As one policeman said, they also have a surprise element as suspects often do not expect to be caught up with or surprised by the sudden arrival of the Police. It is good to see that there is a recognition that the quickest way around is to 'Get on your bike'.



Membership

In the square by this item there is a box, which if ticked highlights your membership is now due. Please re-join as we rely on your small membership fee to keep us going. £5.00 per. household. £3.00 Unwaged. Please make all cheques payable to CycleWight. Mr D Jackson, Toad Hall, Church Rd, Havenstreet, PO33 4DW.

