



520529

[www.cyclewight.org.uk](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk)

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## AGM Report

It was a very successful evening with over 50 people attending. Malcolm Shepherd, Chief Executive of Sustrans talked about the international perspective of global warming and then brought it back to the work of the charity from a national and local perspective. Tim Thorne and Val Lawson reported back on the work of the group over the year. Amongst the highlights for the group the re-building of the cycle track at Dodnor Lane and the very enthusiastic response of people at the Big Green Picnic to our ideas and work. Tim noted the maintenance work was particularly something to be warmly welcomed as the Council chose to support this over other projects. Val spoke about the work the group do with various bodies where we represent the views of cyclists. The Committee were re-elected

Later in the evening there was an opportunity for people to ask questions of Malcolm. Points were also raised specific to the Island and we were grateful for answers from Susan Cracknell, the Cycling Officer and Chris Wells, Transport Policy Manager as well as Nick Farthing, the local manager for Sustrans. People had the opportunity to voice their concerns as well by writing them down. In attendance was Mr. Arthur Taylor, the Chairman of the Council, who was very impressed with the presentation...

The groups were very appreciative of the support from Newport C of E Primary were very helpful over the use of the hall and its preparation for the evening. The School has been awarded Eco School status and now we can see the reason why. There was a raffle to raise funds to which we are very grateful for those who donated prizes.

More information on Malcolm's visit to the Island can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Tim Thorne with Malcolm Shepherd, Chief Executive of Sustrans on the right and Nick Farthing, Area Manger Hampshire and the IoW.



**Important news Newport Sandown track. See back page.** -

## Mince Pie Ride

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 11.00 Alverstone Village Hall**

This event goes from strength to strength. Last year we had 30 people attending. We are hoping for more this year as it is recommended in the **Daily Telegraph** as a free activity to do during the Christmas break, Come and join us as it is obviously the thing to do!. Easy family bike ride around the surrounding countryside. Mince pies and mulled wine to follow. Children Under 16 must be accompanied. Donations for refreshments. (520529) This is part of council's 'Winter Walks and activities programme' so if you wish to take part officially, helmets will have to be worn.

### **Malcolm Shepherd's visit**

You may remember from the previous newsletter that Malcolm was to visit the Island for the whole day before attending the AGM. This he did with Susan Cracknell the Cycling officer along with Tigg the Sustrans Ranger organizing him an itinerary of seeing projects and meeting people.

The whole day was a great success. Malcolm visited a variety of sites around the Island looking at the work of the Council in supporting cycling as well as specific Sustrans projects such as improving the look of the cycle tracks and the National Cycle Network routes.

He was particularly impressed by the project at 9 Acres field where there is a community group who wish to make it be a more useful space. This will include facilities which can be used to do cycle training He had not seen any idea like this nationally and took away details to look at which national bodies may wish to support such a project. Local representatives of Sustrans as well officers of the council accompanied him during the day. He also met David Pugh, the Leader of the Council which was a very worthwhile meeting.

Malcolm had not been to the Island before and was so impressed by the work and opportunities that could be developed here. He has promised to come back in April to spend more time on the Island. As you can imagine this is a major coup for a national figure of such a large charity to make such an undertaking. It is important that this fact is made known to all manner of people in public life. The Island can only benefit if someone of such standing is willing to give of his time. It is also important to make people aware of the asset that we have around us and if used properly can promote a healthy life style and support employment.

### **Committee Members**

The committee is keen to have as many people as possible to join them as possible. This means some of the work can be shared as well as further inspiration can be given to the group. If you do have a little time to share please do consider this seriously. It is much more fun than it may seem and so much has been achieved in the last few years. We do need to keep up the good work. If you are interested to know more do ring Tim on 520529.

### **Things to do**

Tigg, the Island Ranger for Sustrans, has been running volunteer groups improving parts of National Cycle Network on the Island. This has been very successful as many of us do appreciate the results.

The work parties are now on a regular basis.

If you wish to have a bit of healthy outside exercise please ring Tigg on 527896 or e mail [TIGGYTIGG@talktalk.net](mailto:TIGGYTIGG@talktalk.net)

Stuck on xmas day for something to do. Want to get the family really involved? Do you want there to be howls of how do they do that? [www.dothetest.co.uk](http://www.dothetest.co.uk) This is a brilliant web site with a very simple but effective message. It has won awards. Once you have looked at it. Please pass it on to everyone else you know as it has a wonderful and important point to make.

The next stage of the Core Strategy is now out for public consultation. This is important as at it sets the template for the Island with regards its future shape. There is a heavy emphasis on the sustainability so cycling should be well represented but it does need people to support proposals. It is not an easy document to access but it is important if you have the time to make a submission. The closing date 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. You can view it in libraries and make comments by letter if you wish.

<http://iow.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/subcs>

### **Revetment**

This continues to raise its head above the parapet! (No you are not suffering from déjà vu) Some of the Council's from that area have asked the IoW Council once again to investigate the banning of cycling on the revetment even though there are no recorded incidents of accidents between cyclists and pedestrians. You have been warned, have your pens and keyboards ready!

### **Wayfarers' 21st Anniversary**

On 3rd August the Wayfarers' had a 21st Anniversary Ride from Havenstreet to Godshill. The first ride, by John Palmer, Brian Whapham, Roger and Sue Blackwell, was on May 22nd 1983 from Wootton to Sunnyside Cafe. By July 31<sup>st</sup> a list of rides was advertised. The first Island Randonnee took place in 1986.

### **Good websites**

<http://www.veloist.com> Run to encourage people to cycle with all kind of information on it. Aesthetically speaking it looks good too.

<http://www.everydaycycling.com> Same sort of thing but more British

## Cycling in North Wales

On 24th May we took 2 folding bikes and luggage to Chirk in North Wales because the bikes were disguised and folded in their bags we could use the Red Jet, a taxi to Southampton station and get on trains to Wolverhampton, Manchester and Chirk. Unfortunately this would have been impossible with non - folding bikes. Alex and Bob got soaked when returning from visiting the Wayfarer's Stone. We were then very lucky to have 10 days of sunshine. We took the train to Holyhead ( Anglesey) from where we followed Sustrans R8 ( Holyhead to Cardiff ). We left R8 to circuit the Llyn Peninsula. We re-joined it from Porthmadog to Machynlleth and the Centre for AlternativeTechnology. We stayed in Independent Hostels and B&Bs, which were all excellent. I was surprised at the extent of wilderness we discovered. R8 is very well signed. Anglesey is windy and the rest of the route has very steep hills. We needed bottom gear to get up short hills. Coed-y-Brenin Forest has excellent routes for serious mountain biking. Val Lawson

### Inspiration Pt 1

" When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope seems hardly worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a good spin down the road, without thought of anything but the ride you are taking" Arthur Conan Doyle

### Pt 2

Approximately 130 million bikes were made, world-wide, during 2007. This is more than double the number of cars. In Europe cycle sales have increased by14.6% in the past 5 years.

### Pt 3



## From the Saddle

There have been several articles of late that have made the point that the accident figures for cycling are falling. After a bit of investigation it appears the Island is in line with national trends. This is important, as the biggest reason for people saying they are unwilling to cycle is because of the perceived danger from cars. This is quite clear whenever you do such things as 'The Big Day Out' and the 'Green Picnic'. If the Island is to achieve its Eco Island status it is going to have to tackle the traffic issue. There is no doubt that cycling is on the increase, this is official from Council figures and for those of us who cycle every day it is obvious to see. The advent of bright cycle lights has made going down the Cowes cycle track a positive danger as you spend so much of your time blinded by the procession of cyclists coming the other way each evening!

The Council has recently won an award for its road safety campaign and must be congratulated for such an effective piece of work. If it passed you by it involved using pictures of local people. This effort has to be maintained. CycleWight need to harness this initiative and make it go much further. The obvious advantage to the Island from less traffic is healthier people, less noise, more space for everyone etc. In New Zealand they have begun working on a promotion, which is called, 'Share with Care'. This is not just targeted at pedestrians and cyclists on cycle tracks but on all road users. We have all seen that there have been occasions when posters have been put up on a series of lampposts and the message is effective as you pass four or five in a row. If this could be translated to such a road safety campaign it really would be getting the message over. This is just one idea. There have to be more linked to education as well as raising awareness that squeezing past cyclists when overtaking is not acceptable. If you have any ideas on how to promote get this project going do get in touch with us.



## **Boardwalk- Horryngford**

The news everyone has been waiting for. The board walk is to be closed for three weeks from 5<sup>th</sup> Jan to make it safer. There should be notices advising people of the closure and diversion. Other remedial work on cycle tracks is planned.

## **Follow up to AGM**

Below is a list of items that people flagged up at the AGM as items for consideration by CycleWight. We would be interested in your views.

- Lighting Cowes to Newport
- Cats eyes Cowes to Newport
- One single surface type on all tracks
- Wider paths in the Carisbrooke area
- More assertive stance on secondary planning gain.
- Resurfacing Alverstone to the Waterworks
- A new cycle to every middle school child
- Freshwater to Newport
- Cyclists given priority on the new estate in Cowes.

Have you any more? You can contact us via the web site now if you wish.

## **Right to Ride**

Andy Newman has been appointed as the Right to Ride representative on the Island by the CTC. This means he will pursue CTC policy on any local issues that involve cyclists. It is obviously great news, as Andy will have priority access to the campaigning arm of the CTC and the wealth of technical information at their disposal. Andy is on the CycleWight committee so hopefully we should be able to work closely together.

Andy said, "I only hope I can help promote and assist the great work CycleWight has achieved and help by utilizing the expertise of CTC officers and reps to our cause."

## **Bembridge Wheelers**

This is a group that has formed in Bembridge that has set out to encourage people from the village to ride. The group of cyclists has grown in confidence as time has gone on and now rides go further afield. Their most ambitious trip is to be in June when 14 are off to France.

They meet outside Holy Trinity Church every Thursday at 10.30. Recently they organised a

treasure hunt and invited the Wayfarers along. As with all good cycle groups an integral part of the event is a refreshment stop. For further details contact . Mrs. Hopkinson-Woolley on 872953

## **Demonstration Towns**

Bristol is the UKs first official Cycling City, and there are to be a further 11 Cycling Demonstration Towns; Blackpool, Cambridge, Colchester, Chester, Leighton/Linslade, Shrewsbury, Southend-on-Sea, Southport with Ainsdale, Stoke, Woking and York. £100 million will be invested in improving cycling infrastructure e.g. cycle lanes, bike parking and cycle training. Bristol wants to create on street bike rental, a re-cycling scheme (providing free bikes to those in deprived areas), a central location for cycle facilities, cycle lanes linking the suburbs to the city centre and cycle training for children.

## **Tourist attractions**

You may well remember that we tried to make this a activity of the group by sweeping which places on the Island offered reductions for cyclists. We had a very disappointing response with just 2. place; Calbourne Mill and Dinosaur Island. If you visit somewhere how about asking if they offer a reduction? This way we could let other people know and reinforce the Eco Island message.

## **Cycling Festival 2009**

"The dates for next year's IW Cycling Festival are 19 - 27th September 2009. It has been moved back a week because it clashes with the Bestival and to get the reduced ferry prices it had to be on different dates. The festival will include something for all levels of cyclist including the 70 mile Cycle the Wight, Hills Killer mountain bike challenge, Triathlons, the crazy Sink or Swim race, British Cycling events and many more guided rides. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer ride leader." Claire Critchison. Please contact the IW Council Events Team on 01983 823070 or email [claire.critchison@iow.gov.uk](mailto:claire.critchison@iow.gov.uk).

## **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