



## Wight Wheels Cycle Challenge July 5th -25th

The Isle of Wight has become part of the Challenge for Change movement. The point of this is to encourage more people to cycle. It works by getting employers to compete with each other to see which organisation can get the highest ratio of staff on a bike at some point during the Challenge period (July 5<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>). It is also open to individuals who wish to participate, though they will not be eligible for the "team" prizes. There will be a buddy scheme and other activities to encourage people to begin to cycle or get back on their bike after a break. There will be challenges and prizes for departments within companies as well as the participating institutions. Members are encouraged to get their employer involved or to encourage individuals they know who need a 'gentle' push to get back on their bike. There are various Cycle Challenges set up in the country already. There are lots of statistics about the scheme but here are some from Swindon. Out of people participating in the scheme that had not cycled within the last year 32% now cycled once a week. You can look at "getmorepeoplecycling.com"

This is being done in conjunction with Southampton and so will mean that there will be some support as well as a sharing of ideas. As is so often the case it is about changing people's perceptions and demonstrating how good cycling can be.

For further information and to register, go to: <http://www.wightwheelschallenge.org.uk>  
If you know of a company or individual who would be open to this scheme you can contact Will Ainslie who is the coordinator for the Island. Email: [will\\_ainslie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:will_ainslie@yahoo.co.uk) or phone: 07590 516 291



### Cowes to Newport Cycle Track

By now I am sure most of you were aware of the issue that it was to be closed for 3 months beginning in late April for work to do be done at the new industrial facility at the bottom of Stag Lane. After much campaigning, provision is to be made to keep the track open with various measures to be taken as the work progresses. This includes a diversion, through some surrounding land when the track itself is closed.

It is unsatisfactory that the information appeared in the County Press without any notice to the large number of users. It also was disappointing that even though the Cycle Forum met only weeks before this was not brought up. It was pleasing that so many people got involved in the campaign.

## AGM

The AGM was once again a heart-warming event with over 50 people attending. The presentation by our guest Roger Geffen. The Campaign and Cycle Manager from the CTC was exactly what the group needed. Roger was the campaign and policy manager for the CTC. His grasp of the issues was impressive as he outlined the topics he and the CTC were involved in and some of the approaches that need to be made. He also dispelled some of the great myths, which all members of CycleWight should try to dispel. For example 40 people are killed each year by cars whilst they are on the pavement. 3 people in 10 years have been killed by cyclists when riding on pavements. As more cyclists ride the risk from injury by vehicles actually decreases. Approx 110 people die a year from cycling road accidents where as approximately 30,000 people die from obesity. His insights into the political world were of immense interest. It is to be hoped that the new Transport Minister is as in tune with cycling as Lord Adonis the last incumbent. Many thanks to all who brought along prizes for the draw. And also a big thank you to Newport C of E for hosting the event.

## Of interest

Wessex CTC who organise the Grid Iron Ride which takes place in October have contacted CycleWight to say that they will no longer be advertising the event as it is attracting so many people that they feel that it is becoming a victim of its own success. If you wish to attend you will now need to look on their web site to find out details.

## Cycle Forum

The Cycle Forum met again in March. There was a presentation by Louise Gray from the Primary Care Trust who outlined a news scheme that is to be jointly run with the Council called, Challenge for Change. (See front page.) This time a number of issues were discussed such as the state of the roads. Tim Thorne was elected Chairman, It was disappointing a larger number of groups were not represented. If you feel that there is an issue that should be brought to the forum's attention please do contact Andy Newman on 527065 or <ANewman850@aol.com>

There is a need for far more people to become involved with the Forum to prevent, for example, the lack of notice of the closure of the Cowes to Newport track.

## Bembridge Wheelers

This group continues to go from strength to strength. They meet regularly on a Thursday and do 'easy rides' on the Island and on the mainland; their latest mainland ride was to the New Forest. They meet every Thursday outside Holy Trinity Church in Bembridge. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Hopkinson-Woolley on 872953



**Bembridge Wheelers at Harding Chute duck pond.**

## Isle of Wight Cycling Festival

18<sup>th</sup> -26 Sept

There are over 60 rides this year. The usual favourites are there including the 7 Hills Killer, Sink or Swim and the West Wight Triathlon. Some of the other rides are around Wotton and the Shepherds Trail. There is also a bike maintenance class. Information is on the web site "sunseaandcycling.com"

The launch on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> is to be on the County Hall's car park. I am sure you will agree this will have a big advantage with it being in a more prominent position and with the Classic Car show at the Quay there should be much more passing trade. There will be the usual activities, displays and entertainment.



[www.sunseaandcycling.com](http://www.sunseaandcycling.com)

## Cycling in Holland

Well Holland must be the tops when it comes to being the most cycle friendly country. It seems that everyone in Holland and his dog have a bike, they use them to commute, to do the shopping, for sport or just for pure recreation. Nearly every road has a cycle path called a 'Fietspad' which links most villages and towns. These are mostly separate and away from the road itself (unlike most of ours in Britain which are a miserly bit of the road marked off with a white line, if we're lucky!). They are generally well sign posted giving distances in Km, only occasionally in the bigger towns have we got lost and then the Dutch are so helpful, you've only got to get your map out and someone will appear willing to give you directions!

Holland is a good place to tour if you are new to cycle touring and in particular new to cycling because of its flat terrain, many cycle paths and friendly people. Contrary to what some people think there is some very nice countryside in Holland such as the heaths and forest of Gelderland and the De Hogue Veluwe Veluwezoom National Parks north of Arnhem, to name but a few and some very interesting old towns.

Cycle Paths: The Dutch are so geared up for cycle travel that at traffic lights the cyclists have their own set of lights and in



some places the cycle routes have their own roundabouts. We've even been through a tunnel under the Maas river which had separate cycle tunnels complete with lifts to

get the bikes down to the tunnel level.

Generally on minor roads the cycle paths have priority and these are marked with give way triangles on the road surface. On major roads the priority is for the vehicle traffic and you will need to give way at the triangles marked on the cycle path surface.

Be aware that in the country side and forested areas the sign posts change from being the traditional type on a post to an ANWB 'paddestoel' a small square 'mushroom' like structures about a foot and a half in height. These not only have the directions and distances marked on them but they also have a unique 5 digit number. These numbers are marked on some of the cycling maps and are very useful aid to checking your position.

## ipayroadtax

This web site is a very interesting idea. It aims to remove some of the false ideas that some road users have about cyclists. It explains that there is no such thing as a road tax. What exists is a vehicle excise duty. The reason for this is because it was deemed that all people should have access to roads and not 'belong' to any particular user group. The person who promoted this principle was Winston Churchill no less. Money for roads comes from general taxation and not from the Department for Transport.

<http://ipayroadtax.com>

## Mince Pie Ride

A small hardy bunch of riders turned out for the annual ride. As normal it was great to get out into the fresh air after the Christmas feast. Thanks to Mike Marlow for doing most of the organisation. The ride certainly catches the imagination of many. Last year it appeared in the Daily Telegraph as something to do over Christmas; this year it was the BBC with an interview being done live on Radio Solent the Sunday before. Sadly nobody made the effort to come from the mainland but there is no such thing as bad publicity.





## Come and see us

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June between 10-4 there will be a display in St James Square to promote Bike Week. There will be a variety of stands giving out information on a wide variety of cycling. There will be Dr Bike who will be providing a diagnosis on what is wrong with your bike. We are grateful for Wight Mountain who are providing the Doctor. Do please let other people know about this event especially those who are thinking of getting back into cycling.

## Wight Wheels Cycle Challenge – Update

At the present time 29 places of work have signed up to take part in the challenge. They include the Council with its 5,000 employees down to an estate agent with 5. Wight Cycle Hire from Yarmouth are going to Gurit in Newport with some 20 or so bikes to encourage staff to get on and ride. If you would like to do something similar with your company please contact Will at the Challenge.

There also an increasing number of prizes being offered for the various categories. There is a free cinema ticket for anyone who gets back on a bike who has not cycled in the last year. Re-cycle-D of Sandown have offered a cyclist's "starter kit" of accessories including helmet, lights, lock, hi-vis jacket, pump, inner tubes and repair puncture repairs kits. There is also a guided cycle tour for 6 people from Wight Cycle Hire,

## **Membership**

In the square by this item there is a box, which if ticked highlights that 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 4D

## **Notes from the Council**

- A cross town route for Newport has been discussed by the council with input from CycleWight and Sustrans and it is hoped to be signed in the near future.
- The feasibility of the route from Matalan to Blackwater, where some land is owned by the Council and Island 2000, is to be considered but this is a long term project.
- Brading & St Helens route is to be investigated based on the railway line
- Ashknowle Lane between Whitwell & Niton will be upgraded by surface treatment.
- Bikeability training is underway with 11 trainers involved. This is the new training instead of the old cycling proficiency. Some of it is done on roads and so is much more realistic than the playground many of us remember.
- Travelsafe training is underway for schoolchildren up to year 6.
- The Sunshine Trail map is being reprinted
- "Bikes Boots and Hooves" is to be issued. This is information for all who users of paths etc. This document came out partly as a response to the issue of cycling on the revetment in Sandown.
- Sustrans routes will be available to download from the council web site.
- 5600 repair tickets were underway for pothole repair.

## **Bike Stolen**

The bike below was stolen from Brian Jacobs. It was custom built with an Easton Tank frame and Magura Laurin forks. It is a very distinctive bike with other identifying features like Titec Pluto handlebars and Hayes brakes.



The bike was taken to Halfords to be serviced after it had been stolen. If you do see it please ring Brian on 07979964300