



AGM

**Friday November 29th 19.30 Newport C of E Primary,
Hazel Close, Newport. PO30 5GD**

It is here again, the AGM. As usual we hope that as many of you as possible can attend. This year we have invited David Thornton the CEO of Isle of Wight Tourism and Tom Ransom, who has special responsibility for sustainable transport with the board.

Much has happened in the last year and there is much to plan for the future. Come along and listen and give your views.

The fact that each year we have a large turn out is always impressive and a great support to the committee. It would not be an AGM if there were not a raffle so if you wish to donate a prize that would be brilliant. Most importantly of all though, is to be there.

The Police

CycleWight chairman, Tim Thorne, met with Sgt Dave Sanderson who is in charge of the traffic section of the Police on the Island. The meeting covered the issues concerning cyclists as well coming to an understanding of the role of the police in road safety. As with so many topics and issues there is often a level of misunderstanding. For example the Police cannot prosecute car drivers parked on yellow lines - this is a civil matter managed by the local authority. The Police would only become involved if the parked car was endangering the welfare of others. It was interesting to find out that over 300 drivers have been prosecuted this year for using their phones while driving. Most take the driver education option rather than have points on their licence, which hopefully will make it safer to cycle. The Island Traffic Police do have their own Twitter account [@IOWPolRoads](#) which is well worth following and comes up with all kinds of gems.

A colleague PC James [Holden](#) did attend the Cycle Forum in June and added a great deal to the meeting offering views and insights which enhanced the evening.

CycleWight are grateful for the time Dave gave to this meeting."

Newsletter

The Committee has decided to only issue a newsletter once a year, just before the AGM. This is because the cost of postage has risen so steeply - It will cost approximately £100 each time we do a mailing. The committee do realise that not everyone has access to the internet. If you require being kept in touch with activities of the group, please do phone a committee member and let them know and an information sheet can be sent.

The group does have a Facebook page and a Twitter account; these are being particularly useful for communicating to a wider audience. CycleWight has nearly 40 people following the group on Twitter and over a hundred on Facebook. Both sites allow CycleWight to communicate with a far wider audience, See the news story about the Cycle Forum. There is an Isle of Wight Cycling Facebook page which is nearing 400 members which receives any news we give out.

Facts

It becomes increasingly tiresome when you have to continually defend cycling. People ask you questions or cite information that is inaccurate. So throughout the newsletter are useful facts.

LSTF

The Fund is now working at top speed. Will Ainslie has replaced Rachel Mills being in charge of the project. At the moment work is being carried out on Shanklin/Wroxall cycle track. Design work on the East Medina route, which is due to go to the Folly, is ongoing. Members are encouraged to write in favour of the project when planning permission is requested. Another part of the project is linked to raising the profile of walking and cycling by working with Tourism Board, "Visit Isle of Wight". Tom Ransom has been appointed to assist in the delivery of this part of the project. Tom who previously lived on the island has just returned from New Zealand where they have begun to see the advantages of promoting cycling by creating a series of rides including a route from the top of the north island to the bottom of the south.

10th anniversary ride.

On the 22nd June the group held a celebratory ride to mark 10 years since the inauguration of the Cowes to Sandown Track, National Cycle Network Route 23. The ride attracted over 80 riders. There may have been more but there was no need to register to take part. Riders were encouraged to ride some or the entire route. There was a commemorative card which people could get stamped if they wished at the various checkpoints along the way. Refreshments were available at



Mike Marlow and members of the Bembridge Wheelers at Merstone

Newclose Cricket Club and at Rosemary Cottage Langbridge. A particular thanks to David and Emma at Langbridge for the effort they made opening up their garden and decorating it too. There are photos of the day on the gallery section of the web site.

A new place for a cuppa!

There is to be a new place for a drink to be opened before summer next year. Planning permission has been granted for Yarmouth Railway Station to be converted to cafe/bistro. Wight Cycle is also to use some of the building for its hire business. There is to be a bird hide to be built, which will look like a signal box, to take advantage of the position of the site. It is to retain the railway theme with the decoration. Let's hope it is on time!

Website

The website in its present form has now been working properly for over a year. When it was set up the intention was for it to be a one stop shop for anyone that cycled on the Island or were a visitor. Last year there were over 4,000 hits so it does appear to be fulfilling a need. At least once a week comes an enquiry of one kind or another. Most of the visitors to the site are from the UK but interestingly the US provides the next highest number of visitors. On the web site are all the minutes for committee meeting and those of the cycle forum.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve the web site, please do contact us.

Island Roads

The company has announced that they are looking for lay assessors. These people are to be from the Island and are to work with IR to be kind of mystery shoppers. They will find out how it has affected the people using the roads/paths etc and the residents of the area. You can apply through the web site. It would be good to have some cyclists applying so they can have their views represented.

Fact

Visit Britain, the national tourism board are to make cycling one of their themes for 2014

West Wight Marketing Group

This groups' mission statement says "Working together across West Wight to promote sustainable tourism in our rural communities"

Each year it works with a non-profit making group and gives some of its revenue from the events it puts on to a worthwhile cause. In 2014 the WWMG have chosen CycleWight to be its partner group. Needless to say we are very pleased. In return the group hopes to organize some events for them such as a bike ride.

The money raised will be used in some way to benefit the cyclists of West Wight. The decision will be made at a later date.

View from the Saddle

Whether we like it or not the County Press has some kind of fascination for Caulkheads. If you are one of the people who do not look at it at sometime on a Friday I suspect you are in the minority. Last week there was a letter by someone who was complaining about large cycle groups riding on the Island. It said they take up the road and slow traffic down. I and several other people did write responses. Thankfully the replies were calm and rational.

Many of you I know have been watching proceedings on the mainland with public outcry in the New Forest and Surrey Hills about the cycle events, which have caused 'disruption' to motorists. Most of us reading this have little or no sympathy for the motorist because we are willing to stay behind a cyclist because we know the person is having a good time and it does not need to be spoilt by someone in a car squeezing by. We are willing to wait. Sadly not everyone is like us.

Cyclists are never going to win everyone over but can we help ourselves? When a car or lorry waits and then overtakes a cheery wave of thanks or a look in their direction with a smile would be good. Next time, hopefully, they will repeat their act when they come across one of us riding into the teeth of a wind from the west. The Bikeability course (Cycling Proficiency to you and me) teaches riders to be assertive and ride in middle of the road when it is narrow. This is good advice but of course if you then hear a car behind you, in many

cases it does not do any harm to move over to one side to allow them through. This



relatively new advice in the Highway Code is often misconstrued by drivers as cyclists being awkward. Hopefully as time goes on people will understand this.

But for now let us give out positive vibes. So when you are cycling up Bunts Hill and it is pouring with rain, smile otherwise the occupants of the car overtaking you will never join us.

These are the views of Tim Thorne and not necessarily of CycleWight

Fact

A recent report from Transform Scotland estimates cycle tourism bring over £200 million into the Scottish Economy each year. This figures does not include the benefits of any local community of enhanced provision

Leading the Way

As part of the launch of the Cycle Festival there was another launch but in this case a national one. The Road Haulage Association are concerned with the proportionately large number of cyclists killed and injured by lorries and coaches. They have been working on a series of initiatives to lower this figure. Many of the solutions are linked to technology of one kind or another. But education is another way and that what was launched in Newport.

This way is achieved by cyclists sitting in the cab of a large lorry and being shown where the blind spots are on any lorry. No matter how many mirrors they have there is never 360 degrees vision. Blind spots are not only at the rear of the lorry: a driver of an HGV cannot see directly in front of the cab by nearly 2 meters.

Steve Porter Transport lent a lorry for the day and over 30 people climbed up into the cab to take part in an exercise to demonstrate the limited vision.

As part of their HGV qualification drivers can do a unit on cycling, where they have to take to the road on a cycle for 3 hours. Some haulage companies are insisting their drivers take this particular module.

Just4Fun Ride

This group has now been formed for over two years. They meet on the first Sunday of the month at the Griffin Pub, Godshill at 11.00. They try to be as inclusive as possible by riding at the pace of the slowest rider and always finish with a refreshment stop at a cafe. They usually ride 20-25 miles. For further details please contact, myoung_eastmead@yahoo.co.uk

Cycle Festival

It was another success though there was some inclement weather on the way. Mari Louise from the Events Team at the Council has written to say, "I would like to thank everyone who helped, and took part, in this year's Isle of Wight Cycling Festival. Yet again, we increased the number of rides and events on offer and despite some awful weather on a few of the days it appears to have been enjoyed by all who got involved. The addition of the Cycle Cinema was



particularly enjoyed by people of all ages. The festival also achieved a lot of media coverage including BBC South Today, Wave 105 and Jack FM. Next year's festival is due to take place between 13 – 28 September 2014. If anyone has any ideas for the event next year, please feel free to email mari-louise.white@iow.gov.uk. "

CycleWight did become involved in several of the events including the launch and the cinema. The cinema was a great event with about 90 people watching ET at Seaclose Park. A whole variety of people cycled to power the projector. The weather, which was not predicted to be good, held off until the credits began to roll. There are more photos on the web site.

Fact

Blue signs which say "Cyclists Dismount" are to tell the cyclist that there is a danger ahead not an order telling them to get off their bike.

Cycle Forum

The Cycle Forum meets 3 times a year where groups with any link to cycling attend. Since 2009 CycleWight has taken on the responsibility for being the Secretariat for the meetings. At the meeting October in 2013 19 people attended with 15 different groups represented.

This was one of the best meetings held. John Medland the Vice Chair of the Sustainability Committee has taken a special interest in cycling and has attended both Forums since his election. He, as is CycleWight, very interested in trying to create a long term plan for cycling. He asked CW to help to bring some views forward. All the members of the Forum were invited to bring a list of ideas to the meeting. CW also posted a notice on their Facebook page as well as on IOW cycling. This drew a huge response. John since the meeting has organized the ideas together. The list can be seen as an annex on the Forum minutes, which can be found on the web site,

The list will provide for a good deal of discussion for future meetings. Further to this it should allow the group and the local authority to respond quicker to funding opportunities as they arise.

Stop Press - Urgent

The planning application for phase 1 of the cycle path from Newport to E Cowes has been published. This application covers the part from Newport to Island Harbour. There is a need for as many people as possible to support this. It is easy to do; It can be done all on line via our or the council web site. Just a few sentences will suffice. Reasons you can give in your letter of support is that it provides a sustainable recreational opportunity for a wide group of people and it will eventually provide an alternative route to E. Cowes for people who do not wish to use a car.

Membership

In the square by this item there is a box, which if ticked highlights that your membership is now due. £5.00 Per. Household. £3.00 Unwaged. Make cheques payable to "CycleWight" and sent to: Mr D Jackson, Toad Hall, ☐ Church Rd, Havenstreet, PO33 4DW