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Contact us through the web site

AGM

Friday November 28th 19.30

Eight Bells,

Carisbrooke High Street.

AGM

This year has been a very busy one for CycleWight and generally cycling on the Island. There is a lot to report on and discuss at this year's AGM. We have decided to move to the upstairs room in Eight Bells in Carisbrooke. It will take place on 28th November at 19.30. This year our guest speaker is Richard Bates who is on the National Council of the CTC. He is going to speak about how to be a successful campaign group.

Please come along to listen and more importantly to contribute to the discussions, which are bound to take place. A raffle will take place. If you would like to donate a prize that would be great.

LSTF News

The Council with "It's all about the journey" bid has been awarded another £1 million from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This time the



money is to be spent on "Revenue." This means that it is much more about winning hearts and minds. The money will be used on a variety of initiatives to encourage people to leave their cars at home or at their holiday residence. Funding will go towards 'travel ambassadors' and

'travel champions' who will work on the ferries, places of education and employment encouraging sustainable means of travel. There will be grants to encourage schools and places of employment to become actively involved in the new projects. Money will be allocated to adult cycle training as well as enhancing the Bicycle Island campaign and the walking and cycling festivals. It is excellent to see that there will be fund allocated towards a safety campaign, "Share the Road." CW have been actively campaigning for this.

Good News

You may have read lately of the granting of a planning application for a solar farm in the Ningwood area. As part of its application the developer asked for permission to reinstate part of the old railway line to West Wight to aid in the building of the plant. A requirement of the acceptance was that this is to be left in place as a bridle path after the completion of construction. This is excellent news as it will enhance the rights of way provision in that area by linking several different foot and bridle paths. For those of you who use Warlands Lane as a short cut you will have another alternative.

LSTF - Good News

Good News 1. As part of the Bicycle Island grant scheme

CycleWight bid to update the free Round the Island map. This is now finished and can be downloaded on our web site. In many ways it is very similar to the



one in the past, the major difference is the busy roads are identified rather than the quiet ones. This has been delivered to all the Tourist Information points as well as bike shops, bus stations etc. It has been very popular. Whenever copies are given to people the response is, "I am asked for this every day." We have printed 10,000 copies. It was thought this would last for about three years. We only have 4,000 left. It does show that even though we live in an electronic world people still like a proper map on a piece of paper!

Good news 2. The track from Medina to Island Harbour is nearing completion. At present it is due to be opened at beginning of December. Early pictures show it to be very picturesque along some of the sections. It has been necessary to move the path in from the riverbank on some sections and this has held up its construction until now.

Cycle Festival

This year's Festival was blessed by great weather and so numbers attending the events were excellent. CycleWight were involved in a variety of these. We attended the launch, where as usual the committee were kept very busy answering questions etc. On the same evening was the Cycle Cinema. This year it was held outside rather than in a marquee. Nearly 200 people attended, pedalling for all their worth, to keep the film 'Despicable Me 2' going.

We, for the first time for over 10 years, did a Cyclists' Breakfast. This was an excellent event with over 80 people eating their way through croissants and more healthy options. We held it at the bottom of Quay Street where National Cycle Network Routes 22/23 cross. It was a really uplifting experience as it demonstrated how many commute by bike. Many people were, "On their way to work and could not stop". The cross Newport route is a real boon for many people.

Many thanks to the members of the committee who helped out and to Peter and Nola Gould who provided their camper van to



make teas and coffees. Thank you also too to the Public Health team who helped fund the event.

Mari-Louise, White the Council Officer responsible for the Festival has written, "I would like to thank everyone who supported the Cycling Festival this year especially ride leaders, participants, cycle shops and clubs. We were extremely lucky with fantastic weather and the whole event was well attended. There were some great new additions to the programme, including the Cyclo-cross, which was the first round of the Wessex League to be held on the Island. It was so lovely to see so many young people in particular take part.

Thank you also to CycleWight for all of their invaluable support, including hosting the fantastic Cyclist's Breakfast. It was great to see so many people stop by."

Cowes High Street

A topic of much discussion in some parts of Cowes is cycling in the High Street. CycleWight were invited to attend a meeting at the Council to discuss possible solutions. A representative from Island Roads was also there, The Town Council have tried to enforce no cycling in the High Street with the help of the police and by some temporary signs. The police have indicated though it is against the law they do not have the resources to patrol it on a regular basis. It was recognised that much of the irresponsible cycling is people rushing to the ferry This would be difficult to stop though there was an interesting letter in the County Press which suggested cyclists being directed onto the marina and coming out at the Harbour Office, This idea was rebuffed but we think it is worth further consideration. A contra flow system in Birmingham Road was discussed. It is an obvious way into Cowes for locals and visitors alike.

Val Lawson has worked on an alternative route to the one used by the Round the Island route, which is not so hilly. This hopefully would encourage people an attractive alternative to the Col de Victoria Road! This does involve having a contra flow system at one point. The Island roads representative was directed to look into costing of this along with the cycle lane in Birmingham Road.

Cycle Forum

The Forum met at the end of October. Topics of discussion covered a wide range of issues. There was a variety of views on how cycling could improve its image to visitors as well as how to change the perception that some people have of cyclists. A topic that keeps returning is that of how do you ensure cyclists safety. Official figures show that the Island is above average for safety of cyclists but that is not perception of many. There were reports from Will Ainslie on the progress on the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and from Tom Ransom who has been running the Bicycle Island initiative. Disappointingly there was no councillor for the third time in a row and Island Roads did not send someone either. The Forum will write to both parties to ask them to send a representative as they both form such an integral part of cycling on the Island. The minutes for the meeting do appear on the CW web site.

Island Roads

It is an oft-mentioned talking point is the state of the road surface. It is easy to blame Island Roads (IR) and the Council. How many of us actually go onto the Island Road web site and report holes? This is particularly true where the poor road surface is not close to someone's property.

Linked to this there is one road, which stands out. Little London by the Bargeman's Rest. It is good to see a contra-flow system but the state of the road is appalling especially as it is part of the National Cycle Network. It is on the list of works for 2015 but surely it must be done before next summer. Please do go to the IR web site and complete a form to supplement CycleWight's submission.

Station at Yarmouth

The station at Yarmouth has now been open for 3 months. The cafe/bistro, "Off the Rails", has become popular amongst the cycling fraternity. There is easy parking for bikes as they can be left on the track bed. For the first few days there was no cake(!) but that was remedied quickly. Wight Cycle Hire has moved into the area under the signal box making it very easy for customers to begin their ride. The shop continues to run in Station Road.

The station has received many plaudits for its design. The developers and architect deserve much praise for reviving an eyesore and adding to the tourism offer on the Island.



Cycle Festival Pt 2

The Cycle Festival always throws up a good few stories. The success of the Cyclo Cross event was one as well as the Island catching up with the mainland by having a "Tweed Ride". Sheelagh Stone from London is due to do a sponsored cycle ride for Prostrate Cancer in Tanzania. She came to the Festival to do some training. Sheelagh has a JustGiving page if anyone is interested in donating some money towards her good cause. Sheelagh has promised to return to the Island to talk of her experiences when she returns.

Cycling in Somerset

As many of you know Alan Bennett, who for many years has done the web site for CW, moved to the mainland. Here he writes of his new cycling life!

Having left the Island, place of my birth on 31st March, a week later, I was already missing the familiar roads I have cycled all my life.

I was getting used to having a GPS in the car, as every trip meant the possibility of not getting to where I should be on time, or getting hopelessly lost. Luckily, being a professional geek meant I had a decent GPS for my bike, that not only included maps, but two valuable options; 1. Reverse the current route and option 2. Go home by the most direct route. I used option 2 frequently during April!

Somerset is a lovely place, with weather somewhat similar to the Island, i.e. a pretty much prevailing South Westerly wind, so we get the weather the Island is going to get in an hour or so most of the time.

I quickly learnt the local traffic free lanes [called 'droves'] and by May was able to plan a route in my head.

The main thing that endears me to cycling this area is I can choose what type of ride I want to do. I am well north of Bridgewater, [above the tide mark!] and south of me there are swathes of flat countryside for miles through the 'levels' on the 'droves' that are in better condition than some Island main roads. Last week I rode a 60 mile ride with only 800 feet of ascent! On the other hand, the Mendips are only a short ride north where there are challenging hills a plenty! In September I rode through the Quantocks to the coastal town Lynmouth through the Exmoor national park, another great place for cycle touring.

One treat was a ride to Bath and then through the new '2 Tunnels Greenway'. This is an amazing route that passes through [you guessed it] 2 disused train tunnels. The first one is over a mile long and is dimly lit every 10 meters by eerie marker lights. You must have lights, or you will crash into other riders or the many joggers that avoid the heat in the summer. After passing through the shorter 2nd tunnel, the route joins the Bath to Bristol railway path - all traffic free. Well done Sustrans!

I have already been back twice to visit the family I abandoned and I am playing Santa in December via my Red Funnel sleigh!

I know it's early [well, Sainsbury's have had xmas food on the shelves for weeks] but I wish all my friends I have met through CycleWight on the Island a Happy Christmas.

Sunday Social

The 'Sunday Social' have been formed for over a year. Gareth writes. "We conduct guided off road mountain bike rides every Sunday and Thursday evenings. Our Facebook page is growing with new members every week. We are just about to introduce an all female Sunday MTB ride – the first being 23rd November at 09.30 Merstone Station For further information please Gareth Shilton 077333 63035

www.facebook.com/groups/SundaySocialMTB/



Social Media

CycleWight as you will know does have its own web site, Facebook page and Twitter feed. These have all proved to be very popular. The web site has had fewer visitors this year but this is most probably linked to the fact that, Visit Isle of Wight, does have much more comprehensive information on cycling than in the past. Our Facebook page has over 250 'friends' and we are followed by over 120 on Twitter. This is a great way to give out information and with Twitter and Facebook it is an excellent to find out what is happening elsewhere.

Al's Bikes

Al's Bikes in Sandown have become an agent for Marin. Al says the shop is to be refurbished soon. He will then have an open day. From a personal point of view I hope the sofa stays!

Newsletter

Last year it was decided to send no longer print the newsletter due to its cost. There are still a relatively large number of members who have not submitted their e-mail addresses. Please could you do so through the 'Contact' Section on the web site.

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, Riffles, Sloop Lane, Wootton, PO33 4HR. ☐ **Please note change of address**

Committee

Several people have left the committee of late. We could do with some fresh blood. We meet as a group approximately once a month. It is not onerous. It would be good to be able to hear differing views. The amount of work you take on is up to you but it is always good for the work to be shared around.

LSTF - More Good News

The LSTF funding has now just 6 months to run but the fruits of the funding are to be seen all over the Island.

Much of the track between Quarr and Ryde has now been upgraded and is well worth a ride. Negotiation over the use of Ladies Walk is ongoing but let us hope that will not stop an important part on NCN 22.

As part of this the Council have been looking at ways to make it easier to cross the road at Lakeside in Wootton, where Route 22 emerges from the Lakeside Hotel. Negotiations are taking place with the landowner.

Another manifestation of the Bicycle Island is cycle parking and storage. These are now coming to fruition. The penny-farthing cycle racks at Vernon Cottage have caught the eye as well as cycle storage at the Caledon Guest House in Cowes. Andrea and Mark at the guesthouse have purchased a double doored shed from Lushington Gardens to accommodate 12 bikes. They have constructed a path from the front of the house to the shed so as to make it as easy as possible for tired cyclists at the end of the day. This has been further enhanced by a wash facility and a light!!! What more could anyone ask. They are still waiting for the racks to go inside but it has been much used already. It is great to see such a wonderful facility. Before this they used to allow guests to keep their bikes in the lounge!



Stop Press

This week it appears that the Council are intending to sign up to the Department of Transport's Cycle Delivery Plan. This means the Council will formulate a 10-year plan on how it is to increase the number of people cycling and how in broad terms it is going to achieve this.