



www.cyclewight.org.uk

Contact us through the web site

AGM

The AGM takes place at Carisbrooke Village Hall on Friday 27th of November. (opposite the Co-Op in Carisbrooke High Street) It is always fantastic to see so many people turn up to listen to the work of the group during the last year. It is an opportunity to look forward to the future and discuss the best way to progress.

We are still awaiting confirmation of the guest speaker.

Pearl Izumi Road Race

This for many was the highlight of the year. The race was given a high profile in the cycling world and was televised on a mainstream channel.

As for those who were there, it was a unforgettable even though the weather did its best to hijack the day. Everyone who attended left with a lasting memory. The fact that the riders went up Union Street 31 times was one!

It was fantastic that the community participated in so many ways. Local people being able to ride and race on the course added to the excitement and pleasure. The Council, Visit Isle of Wight, Island Roads and Ryde Town Council all played their part as well as so many volunteers.



It has not been fully released yet but a report by the company, which staged the event, has highlighted some of the numbers involved. They estimated 12,500 spectators came to Ryde. Visit Isle of Wight estimated about 20% of those were visiting the Island. An hour-long TV programme, went out on ITV4, reaching an estimated 197,000 viewers with more for the repeat and for online viewing. It was also distributed to TV channels internationally. It is difficult to say financially how much it was worth to the Island but their figure put it very much in the positive (between £200,000 and £500,000) On top of this it must be seen as part of the whole tourism offer – the Island being an exciting and dynamic place to visit.

It would be fantastic if it could happen again, but staging this event was expensive costing in excess of £50,000. The fact that the event organisers were impressed with what the Island

did to make it a success, plus the competing teams saw the circuit as challenging, can only help towards the return of it in the future. It was announced in the CP that it would not be possible for the event to return next year but CycleWight is encouraging all parties to work together to ensure that it returns some time in the future.

LSTF 2

We have become very familiar with the initials LSTF – Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This is a government initiative to make transport greener. We are now eight month in to a year long programme. It has three strands; education, employment and tourism. Through out this year there have been various initiatives to enable people to be more sustainable in their transport.

At the last Cycle Forum Sustrans representative, Ross Edmunds outlined some of the work with schools. They have four workers on the Island. Their role is to go into schools and help to assess what can be done to promote sustainable transport. If they can find a school champion to work with they ask what they can do to provide help. For example he organised a launch breakfast in Bembridge, which was very successful. In other schools there have been Dr Bike sessions to enable children to ride safe and properly working bikes.

Some schools do not lend themselves so easily to cycling but they have worked with parents to encourage walking to school or try car sharing. He did mention that two schools had declined to promote cycling. He pointed out that schools are large employers of adults and that there were health benefits to them becoming part of the work of the project.

Pedallers Cafe

This new café has opened on the Newport to Sandown track at Langbridge near Newchurch. It been open since Easter and has already proved to be very popular with locals and visitors alike. It offers refreshments, snacks and most importantly cake. There is cycle parking and a repair station too.

Speaking to David, the owner, he has been happy with how busy it has been and is looking at ways to make it even more popular. He is giving the interior of the building a cycle related theme so if you have any interesting memorabilia he would like to hear from you. He has already several jerseys from cycle clubs.

SpyVelo

This is a new venture by Dave Wright in Cowes. It is a cycle repair business based in the sail loft on the Cowes side of the floating bridge. On their web site they clearly show the price of each job which is helpful

BUT it is much more too. Dave has taken over the old ticket office at the bridge and turned it into the "PitStop" There you can buy a coffee banana and a spare inner tube. There is a good selection of cycle related goods for anyone who is caught short on their way to work. It is in an excellent position with regards people doing the Round the Island route too.

Cycle Festival

Mari – Louise from the Council's event team writes "Thank you to everyone that supported the Cycling Festival this year, especially ride leaders, participants, sponsors, cycle shops and clubs. The programme was the largest yet with over 80 rides and events with some great new additions, which we hope will return next year. We are still waiting for the final number of participants and fundraising totals to come in so keep an eye on the Cycling Festival website. If anyone has any ideas for next year's event, please email mari-louise.white@iow.gov.uk."

The launch event, at which CW were present, had all kinds of attractions: a pump track, junior cyclo-cross course and cycle cinema. CW for the second year did a Cyclists' Breakfast on the first Wednesday. We received sponsorship from the Chamber of Commerce and were really pleased that close to a 100 people attended.

Mari- Louise does a great job in very difficult circumstances and she must be thanked for her efforts.



Cyclists' Breakfast

New Track Ashlake Copse

The work on the Ashlake Copse Lane / Ashlake Copse Road link has now been completed. The upgraded route links the main Newport to Ryde route and Fishbourne Lane - providing a cycle/pedestrian friendly alternative to using the traffic light junction at the end of Fishbourne Lane. Completed as part of the LSTF1 project, works have included resurfacing Ashlake Copse Lane, installation of improved drainage and the

installation of new directional signs. This now completes another section of NCN22.

Wayfarers' Randonnée

A wet and windy start to Sunday 3rd of May 2015 did not deter 1,932 Cyclists registering and taking part in the 31st Randonnee. Year on year, we are seeing a general upward trend in the number of people taking part on the 100km event, with the 55km becoming the main event for families or new starters.

This year we made a few changes to continue to improve the experience for participants. We opened pre-registration earlier for the event, and left it running for longer via the web-site which significantly helps speed up the starting-off process at the Wootton, East Cowes and Yarmouth checkpoints, our busiest places. Over 60% of entries are now pre-registered and increasing. To compliment what we have done for a number of years with Red Funnel, we introduced a checkpoint on the busiest Wightlink crossing from Portsmouth, allowing participants to get their Brevet cards in advance and sail straight past the Wootton checkpoint preventing queues. 65% of entries begin at Wootton or East Cowes. We provided additional toilet facilities at the Alverstone as those in the hall were becoming a bottleneck.

Overall, the event continues to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback – our Facebook page is alight with photos, memories and comments of thanks to the organisers, food stops and supporters. We now have almost 2000 people following us on Facebook (double the figures from 2014), with the announcement of pre-registration for the event being seen by 14,000 people! (this includes friends of friends!). We did a short survey following the event; over 80% of respondents gave the event the full 5 stars, and 99% gave 4 stars or above! If you have not already, take a look at <https://www.facebook.com/cycleisland>

There are many intangible benefits associated with the event. We know that many participants use the event to raise money for their charity. There is the wider benefit to the IoW. It is estimated that over 50% of the participants come from the mainland, and many will make a weekend stay of the event, which is fantastic for the overall economy of our Island.

If anyone has any ideas, suggestions for improvement or would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you – just email john@cycleisland.co.uk

Wayfarers

The Wayfarers have a new web site for their group with its main colour being a very impressive red. Many of the group have also seen to be wearing cycling top, which follows the same style as the web site. The group also have a Facebook page too.

Red Squirrel Trail

Gift to Nature have created a new website (with help from LSTF grant funding) to provide detailed information on the Red Squirrel Trail.

The new site has been designed to appeal to a range of users both visitors and locals, but with a particular focus on those who are not regular cyclists. The trail is divided into different sections, with a downloadable map for each. There is also an online map and GPS tracks available to download. In addition to the Red Squirrel Trail a number of other easy cycling routes are featured on the site. Cafes, attractions, pubs, bike hire and more are highlighted on the maps and Gift to Nature will be working with local businesses to improve the information available over the coming year.

The website also links in with the new gateway signs the council have erected on the route, with QR codes and short web-links taking people to a page showing them what's near their current location. This is just the start, we hope to improve the site across the winter and keep maintaining and improving it as a resource for trail users, so welcome feedback on the site. You can find the site at www.redsquirreltrail.org.uk

Food for thought

An article caught the eye the other day when it appeared on the BBC web site. "The way cycling deaths are treated by police and prosecutors may need to change, the former Director of Public Prosecutions has said. Keir Starmer said there was a "very strong case" for the Crown Prosecution Service to make the final decision on whether to prosecute cases. Currently, police forces in England and Wales decide whether to pass a case on to the CPS after investigating a death. The CPS said cases should be referred to a prosecutor as early as possible. Department of Transport figures show 113 cyclists were killed in the UK last year. Last year a Freedom of Information found that between 2007 and 2014 there were 276 recorded incidents where a cyclist was killed in an accident involving a motor vehicle. Of these, 148 - 54% - resulted in the driver of the vehicle being charged with an offence. Of those found guilty, fewer than half went to prison."

Why are these serious crimes not decided by the CPS but by the Police? This possibly goes to show the status of cyclists. Do we need a hierarchy of liability like they do in many European countries? The CTC thinks so.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34604622>

Food for thought 2

There have been several incidents this year of narrow wheels going down drains on the side of the road. We have brought this to the attention of Island Roads. If you know of any more instances of this please inform IR as well as CycleWight.

Cycling in France

It may be the dream of every cyclist to ride an iconic journey, an epic ride that is a challenge yet a fulfilment. We had dreamt of cycling the length of France, a sort of LEJOG but longer and with better weather. We had read of a trip put together for the cycling holiday company Saddle Skedaddle to ride from St Malo to Nice. It was with some trepidation that we signed up for a retirement trip of a lifetime.

The ride that lay ahead was a 1000-miles, 17 stages, and 2 rest days. We were supported by a van for the luggage, food and water. The route went from rugged coastline of Brittany, through the quiet pastures of the Pays de Loire and Poitou-Charentes, to the hills and limestone outcrops of the Dordogne, following the River Lot to the wooded mountains of Cevennes-Ardeche, crossing the Rhone to enter Provence, and finally crossing the Alpes-Maritimes to descend to Nice.

We left St Malo in good weather, sunny and warm, following small minor backroads (which we enjoyed for the entire route), making good progress through the flatter northern regions with ruler-straight Roman roads, covering some 70+ miles a day.

As days passed distances lessened (well, on some days) but the climbing increased as we headed towards the Massif Central; 1500m, 1700m, 2000m (brutal!) but the scenery was fantastic. We followed the Dordogne, the Route des Noix (walnuts), climbing to Rocamadour to reach the Lot, A highlight after this was the Col des Tribes which is the watershed between the Atlantic to the north and the Mediterranean to the south.

We cycled on through lavender covered plateaux, staying at little towns carved into the mountainside (such as Moustiers-St-Marie), marvelling at the scenery just getting better and better, peaking with the climb up the fabulous Gorge du Verdon. Finally, the climb over the last Alpes-Maritimes to a super fun descent, 28 miles of it, down to the sparkling Mediterranean.

Our number one problem was the heat. Northern France was having its hottest July on record, ever, and we were cycling in temperatures of 38, 39, 40, 42 degrees. It was inevitable that heat exhaustion set in, despite fluid rehydration and dousing of heads under spring taps,

The last ride took us along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice to a toast of champagne, self-congratulatory photographs and a dip in the Med. We had seen the length and life of France on a bike, tasted crepes in Brittany, foie gras and confit de canard in the Dordogne and olives in Provence, and looking back on the line across the map that took us 1028 miles and 17,420m (57,141ft) across of France fills us with awe and pride. **Matthew and Jill De Belder**
The full article appears on our web site.

Routefifty7

Routefifty7 is an Island family run bike hire company situated on the Red Squirrel Trail and just three minutes from Shanklin railway station at the entrance to Lower Hyde Farm. It launched in May this year. It derives its name from the 57 miles of coastline on the Island. The company feel there is no better way to explore this, than by bike.

Routefifty7 is keen to become more involved with cycling on the Island – not just tourism. They are hoping to offer other services in the near future. They also support charities, including the Charlotte's Tandems. (Charlottestandems.co.uk) As local people they are willing to lend tandems for free to people with disabilities or additional needs, who are unable to ride a bike safely on their own, so that they can enjoy the wonders of cycling.

The owners report they have had a busy first year and have been very pleased with how things have gone. <http://routefifty7.com/>



Cyclo Cross

Dave Wright who is mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter is to run a cyclo-cross series on the Island early next year. This is a welcome addition to the events on the Island. Further details can be found on Facebook.



A to B

This is a magazine dedicated to 'alternative travel'. It is published 4 times a year. The main focus is on sustainable transport and has a well founded reputation for reviewing electric and folding bikes. Its main driving force is a man called David Henshaw who came to a CycleWight AGM a few years ago as a guest speaker. The magazine is well written and has a refreshing and witty writing style. It is well worth having a look. <http://www.atob.org.uk/>

Newsletter – Please read.

It was decided to email the newsletter to as many people as possible to save on costs. If you are willing to do this please could you inform us through the 'Contact' Section on the web site. If you are renewing your membership you can put your email address on the back of your cheque.

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

Re-Cycle

On 20th October 140 surplus, or unwanted bicycles given by residents of the Island were prepared for transit and loaded by a group of volunteers (several from CycleWight) onto a truck loaned for free by Bartletts. They left the Island on a ferry crossing donated by Wightlink for the first stage of their trip to Africa via the national headquarters in Colchester, of the charity Re~Cycle:Bikes to Africa. There, suitable bikes are loaded into containers to be shipped partner organisations in five African countries.

Bicycles which are deemed beyond use, are stripped of useful components, even down to spokes and brake cables. Local co-ordinator, Sue Bailey, said "Spare parts are as valuable as the bikes themselves. It means that local bike mechanics and bicycle empowerment networks can maintain and refurbish the bicycles out



there.

"Bicycles offer people a route out of poverty and a means to improve their lives, giving them opportunities to travel to work and school. They are surprisingly adaptable, and can be used to carry goods and passengers - giving small scale farmers and traders the opportunity to reach customers further afield, or take more produce to market. Every bike or bike part shipped to Africa transform lives, communities and generations - and at a surprisingly low cost." - Alexei Sayle

This is the fourth consignment of bikes Sue has seen delivered since she took over as local coordinator a year ago. "It is thanks to the support of volunteers and the generosity of local companies that we have now sent over 600 bikes this past year to the charity's headquarters. I keep expecting the flow of bikes to slow down – but it seems that the Island has plenty more bikes tucked away in garages that are just collecting dust. It's great – the charity benefits from the donation and the donors benefit from having less clutter!"

If you have a bicycle you would like to donate, either take it to Innerspaces in Place Rd, Cowes or to the Halfords in Waterlooville. For more information about the charity see the web-site www.re-cycle.org.