



520529

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# AGM Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 7.30

## 1<sup>st</sup>Newport Scout Hut, Woodbine Lane, Off St John's Road, Newport

Just like Christmas there is something inevitable and it is the AGM. Once again we hope as many of you as possible will attend. This sends out a strong message to all those who have any link to cycling that it is an important issue. As you will see in other places in the newsletter there is a huge demand for the ability to cycle safely. It is obvious that the group has a role to play.

This year's guest speaker is worth the effort of attending alone, disregarding the thought of the raffle. Dale Bostock is the Cycling Officer for Southampton City Council. The city has approached cycling issues in a different way from the Island. There are certainly some lessons to be learnt and points to consider. We have as usual invited guests along with whom we wish to share the work of the group as well as listen to the views of you and the group.

After the success of the planning meeting in March when people contributed comments to the five identified areas we have decided to do this at the AGM so once again we can access all ideas and points of concern even if we do not have time to hear them all during the evening.

Please do make every effort to come along as well as bring friends, neighbours etc. It is always an enjoyable and relaxed evening.

The other highlight for many of the AGM is the raffle. If you feel you could make a donation of a prize, which will help cover the costs of the evening, the committee would be grateful. Items that are fair trade, cycling related or alcoholic will be gratefully received. But most importantly of all- be there.

### Events

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov** Cycle Forum, Enterprise House

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov** AGM 7.30 1<sup>st</sup> Newport Scout Hut, Woodbine Close, Newport. Plenty of space for bikes and cars.

**Thur 27<sup>th</sup> Dec** Mince Pie ride 11.00 Alverstone Village Hall. 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.

### Green Gym

Tigg the Island Ranger for Sustrans has been running volunteer groups improving parts of Route 22. This has been very successful for any of you who have seen the results.

Some of you may remember that at the Newport end of the cycle track the path by the car park that leads to Blackwater Quay was cleared and has been an immense improvement. The work now has now begun on both ends of the cycle track opening them up by cutting back some of the undergrowth making the path look more open and aesthetically pleasing.

The work parties are now to be on a regular basis. If you wish to have a bit of healthy outside exercise please ring Tigg on 52 [tigg@tiggytigg.plus](mailto:tigg@tiggytigg.plus). It is cheaper going to the gym and much more social. Tools are supplied. Bring along enthusiasm.

## Committee Meetings.

### Reminders—Things to do

- The group is looking for ways to promote Route 22/23 of the National Cycle Network with a ride that links to mainland parts of the routes. Any ideas of how to promote this would be welcome.
- There will hopefully be an electric bike project on the Island. Sue Cracknell, the cycling officer would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a bike or knows of people who use one on a regular basis.
- Connect2 is a project organised by Sustrans. It is a nationwide project to connect communities together by cycling. 2 of the projects are local to the Island though there are many more across the country. Connect2 will be competing against other projects for this additional Lottery funding, Where the money goes is to be decided by national telephone vote in December. Get you dialling finger ready. The great news this project is supported by many people including Ken Livingstone and Lorraine Kelly. Further details can be found on [www.sustransconnect2.org.uk](http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk).

### This must be the way pt2

You may remember from the last newsletter that we mentioned about a hotel in the New Forest that encouraged people not to use their cars by offering reductions to those who handed in their car keys. It appears that the Orchards Caravan Park at Newbridge do a similar scheme. There is a reduction for cyclists leaving their cars on the mainland and they have a policy of trying to get guests to leave their car keys (if they had to bring their car) in reception on arrival and use public transport, feet or cycles to get around whilst staying on the Island. If you know of any other holiday places that offer a similar scheme please let us know. They also take recycling seriously. Calbourne Water Mill also appear to give a reduced entry fee to anyone who arrives “sur la bicyclette”

As a group this is something that we are going to pursue. Committee member Sally Evensen is going to look into this further. Thanks to John and Margaret Steggles for bringing this issue to the notice of the group.

## Cycle Forum

This is the group that is convened by the Council for all groups that have an interest in cycling to discuss issues. Membership includes some of the bike shops as well as the police, Sustrans and the Wayfarers. Councillors do attend and so it is a direct way for the elected. It meets three times a year. Many of the officers of the Council attend to give an immediate answer to matters raised as well as bring fresh ideas to be discussed. By following the link below you can read the minutes and see the types of issues raised.

[www.iwight.com/living\\_here/environment](http://www.iwight.com/living_here/environment)

## Big Day Out

This event is an annual event organised by the Children’s Services in County Council. Its aim is to encourage children and their parents to become more active in their community. It is a means of demonstrating what ways the public bodies support the residents of the Island. We attended for the first time promoting cycling. It would be fair to say it is one of them most worthwhile things that we have done as a group. From the moment the first people arrived to the end of the day we were inundated with people talking to us about cycling. The adults and children were genuinely interested in cycling more. There was an insatiable desire for information about routes that families could cycle, clubs etc, we literally ran out of every handouts we had. It goes to prove that we are meeting a need by providing information and that there is a need for a group to represent cyclists. It also proved that people do wish to cycle more often but the factor that discourages them the most is the fact that so many car drivers are intimidating; they drive too close or they drive in such a way that makes people feel unsafe. This is an important message to make if the cycling (and pedestrian) targets for the Island are to be met.

## 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.