

# CYCLE NEWS

CTC'S ROUND UP OF CYCLING NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS



## Test the Best

Photos: (above) Chris Juden (right) Clive Andrews

Brush up your mountain bike skills and test ride some brand new top-end bikes on the same day – for free



Free off-road skills training from CTC is available over the next two months to complement Specialized and Giant's 'Test the Best' series, where two fleets of top-end 2009 mountain bikes will be available for the cycling public to try out.

The Test the Best series is visiting five UK trail centres: 8th February – Glyncorrwyg, Wales; 15th February – Cannock Chase, Staffordshire; 8th March - Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire; 29th March – Bedgebury, Kent; 5th April – Carron Valley, Scotland. Each event runs from 10am to 3pm.

Test rides are free and you don't need to pre-book. Just turn up and register on the day, not forgetting valid ID and a bank card for security purposes. You must be aged 18

or over and wear a helmet. Full-suspension bikes for men and women will be available, and you'll be able to quiz Specialized and Giant's technical experts too.

To take part in the free off-road skills training by CTC trainers, you'll need to book in advance because places are limited to 40 people per two-hour session. There are two sessions - morning and afternoon - at each venue. You'll need to take your own bike for training, though you can of course practise your newly acquired skills on a top-flight Giant or Specialized afterwards. To book your place, call CTC Membership Department on 0844 736 8451. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis and the course is designed to help people enjoy their ride more.


Richard Hemington, Managing Director of Specialized, said: 'Consumers will have the opportunity to test ride the latest Specialized mountain bikes in five new locations around the UK. There is no better way to experience Specialized's winning technology.'

Ian Beasant, Managing Director of Giant UK, said: 'Test the Best offers you exactly what it says on the tin. We want consumers to come and experience the best riding, with the best technical support, on Giant's award winning Maestro system. Whatever your ability come along and experience the winning formula.'

For more about the Test the Best series, visit [www.test-the-best.co.uk](http://www.test-the-best.co.uk). To learn more about CTC off-road skills training, turn to the feature on page 38.

**SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSNET**  
Send your CTC membership number to [membership@ctc.org.uk](mailto:membership@ctc.org.uk)

# New home for CTC shop

 The CTC Shop franchise changed hands on 1st January and is now run by online retailer Wiggle. Visit [www.ctcshop.org.uk](http://www.ctcshop.org.uk). There's a huge range of products and CTC members get at least 10% off the normal retail price when placing an order. There are weekly special offers too.

Seven-day test rides are available on selected bike brands. Wiggle have their own Cycle to Work scheme, which can save you up to 50% off the price of a new bike. The shop is open 24 hours every day, with online security verified daily.

Wiggle beat a shortlist of six other retailers to win the CTC shop contract. They were chosen, in consultation with CTC Council, because of their product range, customer services, discount to members and business performance.

Sales are by internet only. For those members who are unable to order online, CTC has compiled

a list of over 175 local shops that will offer discounts similar to the CTC Shop to members. Copies of this list will be held by the Information Team and can be emailed or posted on request. Email: [cycling@ctc.org.uk](mailto:cycling@ctc.org.uk) or call: 01483 238300.



## FROM THE CAMPAIGNS DEPT **ROGER GEFFEN**



Finally, after six years, the Department for Transport's new Cycle Infrastructure Design guidance (CID)

is out! Its most useful feature is its 'Hierarchy of Provision' for cycling. This fundamental design principle says that planners and engineers should start by looking for solutions that reduce the volume and speed of traffic – that is, tackling the factors that most deter people from cycling.

But in some ways it's a weaker document than the 1996 guidance that preceded it. Its biggest problem is its failure to rule out cycle lanes of less than 1.5m. CTC's view is that we'd rather have no cycle lane at all than one that encourages dangerously close overtaking. If that means reducing either the volume or the speed of the traffic (which the Hierarchy endorses), then so be it!


CID's other weaknesses are mainly sins of omission. The guidance says little on cycle provision at major junctions (e.g. large roundabouts) or the amount of cycle parking needed at key destinations, and nothing at all on cycle-friendly road maintenance. Another gap is the dearth of advice to ensure any off-road cycle facilities are well designed. The DfT have promised to fix this – hopefully in under six years!

A bigger problem is that many local authority officers won't read CID. CTC will continue pressing the DfT to disseminate the document widely, and to get the principles of the 'Hierarchy of Provision' written into other planning and engineering guidance, not just this one.

For more information and links, see [www.ctc.org.uk/infrastructure](http://www.ctc.org.uk/infrastructure).

# Local area networking



 **CTC will be running a programme of volunteer development days across the regions in 2009. Grassroots support is central to CTC's work, especially since the advent of CTC's Cycle Champions, and lets keen cyclists turn their enthusiasm into real results for cycling at a local level.**

**Through a mixture of workshops and presentations, the volunteer development days will bring prospective and existing volunteers together, identify themes of interest, and transform those ideas into actions. There will be support from professional facilitators**

**and from cycling professionals with a diverse range of cycling experience. To enable you to see how you might achieve your goals, support and ideas will also be on offer from one or more established volunteer groups.**

**Above all else, the day will be about encouraging volunteers to work together in your region and achieve the results you want. This is the beginning of an ambitious programme for CTC. Details are still being worked out. But we are really keen to hear your ideas now. Drop us a line, either by email ([volunteer.event@ctc.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.event@ctc.org.uk)) or by post to the National Office address, marking your envelope Attention – Volunteer Event. It would help us, too, if you could make it clear where you are based (i.e. your nearest town). We look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, keep watching Cycle, CycleDigest, and Newsnet for further information and get ready to sign up.**

## FROM THE TOURING DEPT MARK WATERS



With the credit crunch biting ever deeper, and sterling dropping in value against the Euro, there's never been a

better time to cut holiday costs by going on a cycling holiday in the UK.

We may live in a small country, but on a bike it can appear huge and the variety is virtually limitless. Even seasoned UK tourists shouldn't have to look too hard at a map to find places they've never been before. And after this dreadful winter, summer may yet be good!

First decide what you want. A challenge? Or a holiday for the family that doesn't put them off cycling for life? Where do you want to stay? Camping can be a cheap option, of course, if less so than abroad; there are some brilliant YHAs in the most unusual places, which have many advantages over B&Bs; or for purely practical accommodation, there are bargains to be had at Travel Lodges if you're moving on daily.


For a first time cycling holiday, try staying in one place for the week (or fortnight) and venture off in different directions when the mood takes you. Then you can intersperse your rides with other activities.

Whatever your aspirations, the CTC Helpdesk would be happy to offer ideas on touring areas if you find yourself lacking inspiration. CTC has hundreds of UK routes on the website as well as a good guide to planning routes (information sheet INF36) and finding accommodation (INF44). Either can be downloaded from the website or requested by calling the CTC Helpdesk. Phone 0844 736 8450.

# Critical mass lawful



Right: Clive Andrews

 The House of Lords ruled in November that Critical Mass, a monthly mass cycle ride through the streets of London, is not unlawful. Police attempted to outlaw the ride unless they were given the route in advance.

All five law lords upheld the appeal, which stated that the event has no organisers or set route and proceeds on a 'follow my leader'

basis, so therefore it is not governed by section 11 of the Public Order Act 1986. Friends of the Earth's Rights and Justice Centre, which acted for Critical Mass cyclist Des Kay, hailed the ruling as 'an important victory for the right to peaceful protest and for cyclists to take part in this monthly celebration of cycling.'

But it hasn't been all good news for London cyclists. London Mayor Boris Johnson hit cyclists with a triple whammy at the end of 2008. Johnson announced that the western congestion charge extension would be abandoned, and also cut the funding for the London Cycle Network Plus.

These announcements came on top of his decision to allow motorcycles on all Transport for London bus lanes as an 18 month 'experiment'. CTC Campaigns Manager Roger Geffen said: 'However genuine Boris's desire may be to increase cycle use in London, he risks doing the opposite. Dropping congestion charges while raising public transport fares is bound to increase traffic and pollution. Cycling will become less pleasant, and he'll have less money for pro-cycling measures too – indeed he's already cutting the spending on cycle networks. Allowing motorbikes into bus lanes will undermine cycle use further still.'

## Cycle campaigners on TV and web

Ten year old Sam O'Shea is only in primary school but he is already a CTC 'Right to Ride' campaigner in the making! Sam has been challenging his school's ban on cycling. In December he appeared with CTC's Cherry Allan on BBC1's Newsround, and several national papers also featured his campaign.

Schools are not allowed to ban children from cycling, however they can forbid children from parking bikes on the school premises. CTC's Right to Ride reps campaign on a local level and they would love to hear from anyone else who is being discouraged from riding to school.

Meanwhile, cycle instructor and CTC member Dilys Gartside is encouraging her whole street to cycle. She is taking part in a documentary for BBC1 called 'Can Your Street Go Car Free?', due to be aired in February. Dominic

Littlewood clamped the cars in Dilys's road for five days during December. Dilys has been giving cycling tuition to her neighbours. She said: 'I hope to encourage my 40 neighbours to explore alternative ways of making their usual trips and have been really excited at the interest in and take up of the "try a cycle" pool bikes. It just goes to show what you can achieve if you make a little effort and have a lot of passion!'



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CREDIT CRUNCHED

The CTC Credit Card ceased in 2008 – a sad victim of the credit crunch. While the credit cards themselves remain valid, CTC will no longer benefit from commission from cards used by members. In spite of our best efforts, no further suppliers have been found – a situation facing many other small charitable organisations. One option is to use a cashback credit card instead and donate some or all of the cashback.

### OBITUARY CORRECTION

Norman Fay's name was misspelled in the obituaries last issue. Apologies.

# EVENT NEWS

CTC FIXTURES FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD



## CHESTER

### 70th anniversary rides

As well as hosting the CTC AGM and Dinner in April, Chester and North Wales CTC will be marking their 70th anniversary with a choice of rides on 19th July. The three rides – 25, 50 and 75 miles – will be open to non-members and CTC members alike and will finish with certificates, refreshments and a prize draw at Bickerton Village Hall. Spaces are limited to 100 riders, so early entry is advised. Contact David Ackerley, email [diamentina@btinternet.com](mailto:diamentina@btinternet.com), tel: 01829 770 224 or write to David Ackerley, Ardminish House, Tattenhall Rd, Tattenhall, CH3 9QQ.

Also in July, Chester and North Wales CTC will be running the Bert Bailey Memorial Veterans' 100. Entrants must be at least 50 years old on 1st March 2009 and must ride a bike with full-length mudguards. The event is on 5th July, starting and finishing at The Scout HQ, Higher Kinnerton. Contact David Ackerley, as above.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CTC DONATIONS

Thanks to CTC member David Bennett, who made a £500 donation to the Cyclists' Defence Fund following a successful claim on his behalf by CTC solicitors Russell Jones and Walker. Thanks also to member David Bugden, who donated £200 to CTC after he too had his claim settled by RJW.

### STAFF CHANGES

Two new staff joined National Office in 2009. Adrian Lawson has taken on the role of Volunteer Support Officer for Local Groups and Events whilst Sam Walton takes over from Debra Rolfe as Volunteer Support Officer for Local Campaigners. Debra has moved on to the Campaigns and Policy team as Campaigns Coordinator. Adrian and Sam will join Frances Chaloner in the new Volunteer Support team. There will be a feature on the work of this team and the people involved in the next edition of Cycle.

## CTC: same goals, new structure



In the run up to the 2009 AGM, CTC Council and the Trustees of the CTC Charitable Trust are preparing for a detailed debate on the relationship between the two parts of CTC.

CTC Councillor David Butler explains: "To promote and safeguard the interests of all cyclists." That's been CTC's remit throughout its history, from 1878 to the time of GH Stancer (below, meeting King George) to the present day. For most of its life CTC was a membership club. In 2005 the CTC Charitable Trust was formed – and work began on a new office (below), which the Trust owns – to help CTC access resources that only charities are eligible for.

'Such funding has already given us CTC's Cycle Champions, who are working with new cyclists. Many of CTC's activities remained exclusively for its members and weren't considered charitable, so CTC adopted a hybrid club/trust structure. Recent changes in legislation mean that almost all of CTC's work can be considered charitable, so there is a case for becoming a unified organisation again – one that's a charity but also provides the services CTC members expect. CTC Council aims to make a recommendation for the 2010 AGM.'

There will be a more detailed article on this topic in the April/May issue and an important debate on CTC's direction at the 2009 AGM in Chester.



## Festival of cycling



The Kirkpatrick Macmillan mass ride, KM169, which celebrates the Scottish inventor of the treadle-powered bicycle, will take place on 24th May. It will combine with the Original Bicycle Festival, a fortnight long extravaganza of all things cycling promoted by the Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The idea was prompted by the

decision to hold the International Mountain Biking Conference on Sustainability at Dumfries on 12th-14th May. There will be a Cycle Expo, a film festival, rides, and other events leading up to 24th May. More details will be in the next issue of Cycle. Booking for KM169 event will be with Peter Hawkins, tel: 0131 443 6712. For more details, see [www.dandgcycling.org.uk](http://www.dandgcycling.org.uk).





Photos: Brian Lowe, Glennys Hammond, and Dan Joyce



**AGM & DINNER**



**Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ £26 each for the CTC National Dinner on Saturday 25th April.**

(Cheques should be made out to 'CTC') and sent to: CTC Membership, PO Box 416, Twickenham, TW1 9GD.

Names of those attending (use another sheet if necessary). Please put a letter V in brackets, like this (V), after the name of any vegetarians.

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I/we would like details on local accommodation

Yes  No

I/we are interested in taking part on the Guided Tour of Historic Chester (minimum donation of £1 to Charity taken by the Guide on the day)

Yes  No

I/we are interested in taking part in the Sunday rides – please indicate which ride:

- Ride A – Deeside Delights (Hard)
- Ride B – Cheshire Lanes/ Ice Cream Farm
- Ride C – Eureka

Name.....


Address.....

Tel.....

Email.....

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# Plan your weekend in Chester now

 **Book your trip to the historic City of Chester for the weekend of 25th and 26th April. Here the members of Chester and North Wales CTC look forward to welcoming you for the Club's AGM and National Dinner on the afternoon and evening of Saturday 25th April. Remember, this is your chance to meet the Councillors you elected, and to make your views known to a wider audience at the AGM.**

2009 is also a year of celebration for Chester and North Wales CTC (see opposite). Formed just a few days before the start of World War II, Chester and North Wales CTC is now 70 years old, and still as busy as ever. It is proud to host the AGM and National Dinner as the highlight of its anniversary celebrations, which will continue throughout the year.

Amongst the weekend's attractions, Chester and North Wales can offer you a specially organised walking tour of this historic city led by a Blue Badge Guide. On the Sunday morning (to freshen up after the previous night's revels!) there will be a choice of expertly led rides to suit all abilities. You can choose to ride hard and high into the Welsh hills, enjoying glorious views; to explore the quiet lanes of Cheshire – one of

England's great undiscovered counties; or to stop for a coffee and a chat at the famous Eureka Cyclists' Café on the edge of the Wirral. The area around Chester is well provided with dedicated cycle routes, an advantage especially for those with children. All rides will return by early to mid-afternoon and will include stops for refreshments at cyclist-friendly establishments.

The AGM and the Dinner take place in the grand surroundings of the newly re-furnished Queen Hotel. If you plan to cycle there, traffic-free cycle routes lead to within a few hundred yards of the hotel, which is conveniently located directly opposite Chester's main railway station. Parking for cycles (as well as cars) is available at The Queen as well as the station.

As befits one of England's great tourist centres, there is plenty of accommodation in Chester – at prices to suit all pockets. So, if you don't want to stay in The Queen (or the Youth Hostel) you will find much B&B and guesthouse accommodation within easy cycling or walking distance of the venue.

If you have any queries about the AGM or dinner, contact Sue Cherry, tel: 01483 238302, sue.cherry@ctc.org.uk.

## CTC's New Vision for cycling

With the Government's long-term transport policy due in spring, CTC is setting out its stall



It's now two years since Sir Nicholas (now Lord) Stern published his report into the economics of climate change, and 18 months since Sir Rod Eddington completed his review of UK transport and the economy. In response, the Government is developing its long-term goals for transport planning beyond 2014. Key to this process is how the Department for Transport

(DfT) will reconcile two of these goals: tackling greenhouse emissions whilst maintaining a growing economy. The other goals are to 'contribute to better safety, security and health', 'promote equality of opportunity' and 'improve quality of life'. Cyclists know how well cycling contributes to all five goals, but this is a vital opportunity to make the case to Government – indeed our campaigns team and local volunteers have already been doing so for over a year! The 'New Vision' itself will be at the heart of several other campaigns we've got planned – not least our general election lobbying.

### Supporting the economy

- Cycling makes efficient use of road space. One carriageway can accommodate 2,000 cars per hour – or 14,000 cycles.
- Cycling schemes are among the most cost-effective ways to tackle congestion, typically generating £10 of benefits for each £1 invested.
- Cyclists visit the shops more often than car-users, putting money back into the local economy.
- Cycling to work enhances employee productivity and reduces absenteeism and ill health.

### Tackling climate change

- A person commuting just four miles each way to work by car would typically reduce their carbon footprint by 6% if they switched to cycling.
- If we were to double cycle use by switching people from using their cars, Britain's total greenhouse emissions would fall by 0.6 million tonnes. That's almost as much as switching all London-Scotland air travel to rail.

### Improving health & safety

- An adult cyclist typically has a level of fitness equivalent to someone 10 years younger, and a life expectancy two years longer.
- Cycling gets safer the more cyclists there are. A doubling of cycle use will lead to a 34% fall in the risk of injury faced by each cyclist.

### Equality of opportunity

- The richest 20% travel 4.5 times as far by car and train as the poorest 20%, but cycle just twice as far.
- Men from households without cars cycle 2.5 times more than those in homes with three or more cars.

### Improving the environment and our quality of life

- As zero-emission vehicles, cycles reduce levels of harmful pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen. Cycles also make zero noise.
- Cycle-friendly town centres are more attractive for shopping. Studies show you attract one extra person into the town centre for every 14m<sup>2</sup> of space reclaimed from car parking.

## CTC's six-point plan

CTC's New Vision will call for action on six campaign themes:

### 1) Commitment to cycling

- Recognition of the full range of cycling's benefits and a commitment to resource cycling, from all Government departments and other bodies, nationally and locally.

### 2) Cycle-friendly planning and design

- Ensure that new developments are easily accessible by cycling and other sustainable transport modes.
- Creating safe and attractive cycling conditions throughout the road network, together with well-designed off-road facilities where these enhance cycle travel, including quality cycle parking.

### 3) Safe drivers and vehicles

- Cycling gets safer the more people there are doing it. So road safety targets must aim for 'more' as well as 'safer' cycling.
- This means tackling the fears that put people off cycling: speed and speeding, bad driving, hostile roads and junctions, and dangerous vehicles (especially lorries).
- It also means providing quality cycle training to give people the skills to ride confidently and safely.

### 4) Public transport integration

- Good access to, from, through and within stations and interchanges.
- Cycle parking, storage and/or hire facilities at stations and interchanges.
- Provision of adequate space for carrying cycles on public transport services.
- Sensible and user-friendly ticketing and reservation systems.
- Information and publicity about the ways to integrate cycling and public transport.

### 5) Encouragement and awareness

- Influencing attitudes and behaviour through promotional activities and marketing campaigns to encourage and help people to take up cycling or to cycle more often.
- Making quality cycle training ('Bikeability') available to people of all ages.

### 6) Recreational and off-road cycling

- Increasing and improving the provision for off-road cycling (e.g. through parks and open spaces or along the coast) and the maintenance, information and publicity of the rights of way network.

Look out in *Newsnet* for the launch of the *New Vision* and get ready to help us spread the word e.g. in your local newspaper!