

PAGE 44 READ MORE ABOUT HOW OFF-ROAD TRAIL CENTRES ARE ADAPTING TO SUIT NEW USERS



WOODS FOR ALL CYCLISTS

Forestry Commission and CTC to work in tandem to increase cycling and mountain biking in woodlands. Health and tourism to benefit

WITH A SHARED VISION to increase cycling in woodlands, Forestry Commission England and CTC have launched an official five-year partnership. Our goals: to increase the role cycling plays on the Forestry Commission Estate, to enhance national health and well-being, and support local tourism.

Kevin Mayne, CTC Chief Executive, said, 'CTC and the Forestry Commission continue to make a real difference in providing

“Over 10 million cycling visits are made every year”

cycling opportunities to a diverse range of cyclists, across all age groups. CTC is very happy to cement our relationship with the Forestry Commission, and we look forward to continuing our involvement with current cycling projects, while delivering a number of new and exciting opportunities.

'We want to encourage the community to get the most from local woodland and the full range of benefits that cycling offers.'

Pam Warhurst, Forestry Commission Chair, agrees: 'With over 10 million cycling visits being made every year to Forestry Commission woodlands,

it's very much at the heart of what we do. Our woodlands are the setting for many people's first off-road cycling experience, and are celebrated as a favourite place to enjoy mountain biking.'

Projects delivered by Forestry Commission England and CTC:

- **Cycling for disabled people at Alice Holt in Hampshire**
- **Encouraging families on holiday to try cycling for the first time in Sherwood, Haldon, the New Forest, Kielder and Dalby**
- **Young people's trail projects in the South East of England**
- **A new network of off-road trails in the South West**

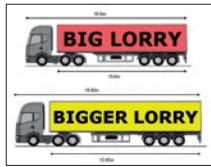
Forest advisory panel

Meanwhile, CTC continues to press the case for protecting cycle access to England's forests. The Forest Advisory Panel, set up following the Government's U-turn on the sell-off of forests earlier this year, will shortly be making its recommendations. CTC has sent its own views into the panel, as well as signing up to a joint submission from a coalition of access groups led by The Ramblers. See www.ctc.org.uk/forests.



PHIL LIGGETT CHALLENGE A BIG HIT PAGE 14

More than 450 cyclists rode CTC's Peak District sportive in August. Find out how to take part in October's sportive here



PUT A HALT TO LONGER LORRIES PAGE 10

The Government wants to allow bigger lorries on UK roads, putting cyclists more at risk. Find out what you can do to stop it

SUBSCRIBE TO CYCLECLIPS, CTC'S FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER: SEND YOUR CTC MEMBERSHIP NUMBER TO MEMBERSHIP@CTC.ORG.UK



Left: Phil O'Connor

Council of cyclists

NATIONAL COUNCIL is the governing body of CTC, the group of ordinary members who take an active role in the running of the organisation. Councillors are elected for a three-year period. Nominations were recently sought for members to represent the West Midlands, Eastern, London, and Yorkshire & Humber regions, from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

In the Eastern region, two nominations were received for the two seats, so existing councillors Martin Cockersole and Jim Brown are re-elected. Two nominations for the two seats in the Yorkshire & Humber region mean that existing councillor Arthur Spurr is re-elected and is joined by John Radford. In the London region, two nominations were also received for the two seats there: Roger Crosskey and Colin Brown are the new councillors. In the West Midlands region, three nominations were received for the two seats, so an

election will be required. Ballot papers are included with this issue of Cycle for all members in that region.

Chair of CTC David Cox (pictured with Phil Liggett) paid tribute to two departing councillors who did not seek re-election, Helen Vecht from London and Kevan Shuttleworth from Yorkshire & Humber.

'Helen is a determined and independently-minded member of Council,' he said, 'and very much part of London's cycling culture. I hope she will continue to engage in CTC policy debates. Kevan brought the perspective of the experienced cycle tourist and cycle camper to the deliberations of Council and would often arrive at meetings after cycling from Yorkshire.'

There is also currently a vacancy for the South East region. Council is seeking nominations: see the ctc.org.uk/council for more details and to download a nomination form. Nominations must be received by **31 October**.

FROM THE CHAIR OF CTC David Cox

BIRTHDAY parties over the last few weeks have demonstrated once again what a friendly and well-organised club CTC can be.

First came CTC's 133rd birthday, celebrated in great style by the Birthday Rides at the excellent Framlingham College in Suffolk. Altogether, 650 members came along for a week of rides, trips, camping, socialising, good food, talks and slide shows in the wonderful Suffolk countryside. Many thanks to the organisers: fellow councillor Tim Jackson, Paul Fenton from Suffolk CTC, and more than 30 volunteers.

Vice President Josie Dew cut the cake and then treated us to an impromptu talk about her world touring and recent family cycling adventures. Next year's Birthday Rides, organised under CTC Holidays and Tours auspices, will be in Shropshire – and it's not to be missed.

Next, I went to the first birthday of Bike Club Scotland in Glasgow's City Chambers. Young people from some of the 50 projects across Scotland came to talk about having fun on bikes and to swap ideas on getting organised, setting up trips and events, and customising shipping containers to store project bikes and equipment.

Finally, to Nuneaton CTC for a special 80km ride around Market Bosworth to celebrate the 80th birthdays of three great local members. The three octogenarians, Bert Pearce, Morgan Reynolds and Eric Neal, led a large group of cape-wearing riders into the pouring rain. But we dried out by coffee time and returned for the barbecue and cakes in glorious sunshine!



NEWS IN BRIEF

› 20MPH LIMIT: CTC AGREES

CTC welcomed an announcement in August from the Institute of Advanced Motorists that many of its members support the adoption of 20mph speed limits. However, CTC also highlighted the benefits of blanket implementation versus the 'patchwork' approach of 20mph zones. CTC's Roger Geffen said: 'Blanket 20mph beats scattered zones: residents see a bigger return because more people buy in.' Many continental towns and cities where cycling is a popular mode of transport have 30km/h speed limits (18.6mph). CTC is also supporting a campaign, led jointly by the pedestrians' organisation Living Streets and Sustrans, for 20mph to be the default speed limit in London, in the run-up to next spring's Mayoral election. To add your support the campaign, visit www.livingstreets.org.uk/20mph.

› FAIL TO PLAN, PLAN TO FAIL

The Government's proposed reforms to the planning system could trigger an escalation in out-of-town developments, which would fuel congestion, raise traffic levels on the M1 by 16%, and cost the economy up to £250m. These were the findings of research commissioned by the Campaign for Better Transport (CBT). CTC shares the concerns of CBT, as do the National Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. CTC's Roger Geffen said: 'A serious rethink is needed, otherwise we'll see more business parks, out-of-town supermarkets and large remote hospitals, which people will only be able to get to by car. That would not just result in increased economic costs due to congestion, but increased greenhouse emissions and physical inactivity as well.' Read the report at: bettertransport.org.uk/media/aug-30-congestion-M1.



BIKE CLUB SCOTLAND CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR

SCOTTISH YOUNGSTERS

had the opportunity to meet the country's decision makers in education, public health, road safety, and community learning and development in August, when these groups met to celebrate the first year of the cycling development programme, Bike Club in Scotland.

The day involved presentations from Bike Club leaders, who discussed their projects and explained the difference cycling has made to young people's lives. In attendance were members of local group The Somali Community Regeneration Organisation, who recently established a Bike Club to give young people the means to explore their environment by mountain bike.

Club Leader Ahmed Abdilahi said: 'Until recently, the Somali community living in Glasgow had very little chance to experience outdoor activities.

The Somali Bike Club addresses this, organising regular bike trips outside the city so that members have equal opportunity to experience rural Scotland and get fit in the process.'

They were joined by students from Liberton High School Bike Club (where Bike Club's Amy Hickman is pictured, above). They used their funding to buy a storage container for donated bikes.

Ellie Forgan, the Active Schools Co-ordinator from Liberton, said: 'The opportunities Bike Club funding has provided for our pupils are immeasurable. Our storage container will act as a hub for cycling activity in the school and community. This will be a place where pupils can feel safe, have fun, and learn about cycling.'

Bike Club has set up 43 clubs for young people in Scotland, working closely with youth groups, schools, and community and parent-led groups.

FROM THE TOURING DEPT

Mark Waters

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF

some weekend rallies, most of the big ones are clustered into the months of July and August, which makes it a busy time for the committed rallyist.

This year's crop was as fun as ever, although I can only personally vouch for the Semaine Fédérale and the Birthday Rides, the latter being brilliant in every way. Even the weather was kind, which it wasn't for some. The Semaine Européenne, held in southern Belgium, saw a lot of rain and the Sem Fed saw three days of it. For the camping fraternity, the weather really does play a significant role, even though there are always alternatives to riding in the rain.

Next year's Birthday Rides are being held in Ellesmere in Shropshire from 13-19 August. (Details will be available from CTC Holidays and Tours from January 2012 onwards.) The Semaine Fédérale will run from 5-12 August at Niort, near La Rochelle, while the Semaine Européenne will be at Gijon, which is about 200km west of Santander in Spain. There will be led CTC holidays to the last two, when it is hoped that members who haven't been to an overseas rally before will take the plunge. Put the dates in your diary now!



Right: iStockphoto.com



Repair order for scenic road

THE CYCLISTS' DEFENCE FUND (CDF), a charity set up by CTC to challenge legal issues affecting cyclists, has served notice on Sheffield City Council Highways that it considers an iconic road to be 'out of repair'.

The action, brought on behalf of the charity by trustee Martyn Bolt, relates to Strines Moor in the Peak District. The route, linking the A616 from Langsett to the A57 at Ladybower, has been used in stages of the Tour of Britain and is likely to feature in Sheffield's proposal to host part of the Tour de France in 2016.

'This is not a request solely for cyclists,' said Martyn, 'but for the many motor cyclists and car drivers who also use the Strines.'

The action has been launched using a little-known part of the law, section 56 of the Highways Act 1980, under which anyone can ask that the highway authority takes action on a road that is 'out of repair', where failure to do so can lead to a hearing in the magistrates court.

The council has responded by admitting it is responsible for the road, stating that the roads are inspected regularly, and defining a pot hole as being '20mm or more' deep.

Martyn Bolt dismissed the council's claims to have inspected the road, saying, 'I would invite the head of Sheffield highways to join me on a cycle ride across Strines moor. When they hit a 20mm hole, of which there are many, while going down hill, they will perhaps have a different perspective on 'intervention levels'.'

The council has three months to act or it could face a court hearing.

READ MARK'S TOURING BLOG VISIT [HTTP://TOURINGBLOG.WORDPRESS.COM/](http://touringblog.wordpress.com/) FOR MORE NEWS AND VIEWS ABOUT TOURING CYCLING

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEMBERSHIP SUBS RISE

CTC Subscription rates will rise from 1 October. This decision was passed at the AGM in May. Annual memberships will be: Adult £39; Family (at the same address) £63; Senior (65-plus) £24; Junior (18 and under) £15; Student (19-26) £15. Five years Adult membership will be £156, five years Senior membership will be £96.



Right: iStockphoto.com

ACT NOW TO HALT LONGER LORRIES

CTC IS URGING all cyclists to help stop the introduction of dangerously long lorries onto our streets. Visit CTC's website, ctc.org.uk/longerlorries, to send an automatic email to your MP; it takes only moments.

Lorries are involved in a disproportionate number of crashes with both cyclists and pedestrians. Yet road safety minister Mike Penning MP is planning to allow lorries that are over two metres longer! The increase in length will mean bigger blind spots and more tail swing, which is likely to result in more cyclist deaths.

'Communities up and down the country will be appalled at the thought of longer HGVs coming through their towns and villages,' said Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, Maria Eagle MP.

While left turns account for just 3% of overall road fatalities involving a lorry, the most recent figure for cyclists' deaths is 38%. Research for Freight on Rail and the Campaign for Better Transport suggests that safety would worsen with longer lorry trailers.

WANT MORE CAMPAIGNS NEWS? SIGN UP
to Cycle Digest.
Email cherry.allan@ctc.org.uk to receive your copy

Fighting for funding

The Government has half a billion to pay for local schemes that encourage sustainable transport. Like cycling? Partly, explains

ROGER GEFFEN

CYCLING HAS HAD mixed fortunes in the first round of Government decisions on English local authorities' Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) applications. Cycle centres for commuters in Manchester with parking and showers were among the winners, while 'soft infrastructure' schemes promoting cycling to young people lost out.

This first round of funding allocations amounts to just over a quarter of the LSTF kitty: £155m of the £560m total. The money has been awarded only for smaller bids – of up to £5m – and for key components of larger bids.

Those larger bids, for which there is £405m left in the pot, will be formally submitted by local authorities in December. The Government has already announced which of these larger bids it will consider, and which must be scaled down and re-entered as smaller (sub-£5m) bids. Decisions will be made on the second round of funding bids next summer.

Greater Manchester's successful bid includes plans for seven cycle centres (with secure

covered parking and lockers for 650 cycles, plus toilets, showers and changing facilities), and six cycle 'compounds' (with secure covered cycle parking and lockers but no other facilities).

Winners and losers

Other successful cycle-friendly bids include those from Brighton, Suffolk (focused on Lowestoft) and Cumbria, whose plans include a number of bike-buses.

There are also several disappointments, particularly for bids to promote cycling for children and young people. While Leicester has gained funding to continue its excellent work promoting cycling for the city's diverse population, a CTC-inspired joint bid (also submitted by Leicester) to promote our Bike Club youth project in a dozen local authority areas was rejected, while a Sustrans-led larger bid for its schools-based Bikelt initiative (submitted by Devon) will have to be scaled back and re-submitted as a smaller bid.

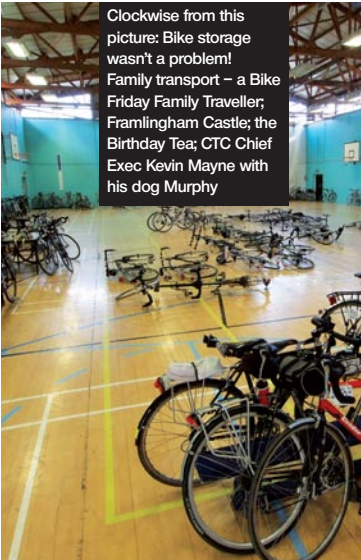
The LSTF's stated main aims were to boost the economy and cut carbon. The school run

accounts for 21% of car trips made by people living in urban areas during the morning rush hour, a major economic impact. Yet we understand ministers were reluctant to support bids to encourage cycling among children and young people. They wanted to know exactly which traffic jams would disappear as a result of the bid, otherwise they weren't interested.

LSTF is helping ensure that *some* of the beacons of good practice started by Cycling England and the Sustainable Towns programme are still afloat. However, in terms of making sustainable and active travel the mainstay of transport funding, we clearly have a long way to go.

Further reading

- **For Government announcements on LSTF funding allocations, see dft.gov.uk/publications/local-sustainable-transport-fund-guidance-on-the-application-process**
- **CTC's advice on cycle-friendly local transport policies and programmes is at ctc.org.uk/ltp**



Clockwise from this picture: Bike storage wasn't a problem! Family transport – a Bike Friday Family Traveller; Framlingham Castle; the Birthday Tea; CTC Chief Exec Kevin Mayne with his dog Murphy



CTC's summer holiday

NEARLY 650 CYCLISTS

converged on Framlingham in Suffolk this summer for the CTC Birthday Rides, a week-long cycling celebration of the founding of the organisation in August 1878. CTC Suffolk were the hosts, with Paul Fenton coordinating, and their members led daily rides out into the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The venue was Framlingham College, which is idyllically situated in large grounds facing Framlingham Castle across a mere. The majority of cyclists camped, with 380 pitched on the site.

'It was especially pleasing to see so many families with children,' said Tim Jackson, event coordinator for CTC Holidays and Tours. 'We were blessed with glorious sunny weather as everyone arrived to set up camp, and there was a huge marquee, with a bar, as a social focus. Delicious and plentiful meals were provided in the refectory all week, with staff helpful and good-natured. They say an army marches on its stomach, but I reckon cyclists aren't far behind.'

There were five days of graded rides, ranging from 15 to 80 miles. Some went east to Aldeburgh, Southwold, and Woodbridge on the coast; others north to the edge of the Broads; and some south to Constable country and west to Lavenham.

Evening entertainment included an excellent jazz group and singer, a quiz, talks from Chris Juden and Mark Waters, and a lecture on wartime secret activity on the coast. There was also a sailing barge trip, an open air theatre visit, a children's entertainer, a bouncy castle and a stand-up comedian who told tall tales about Suffolk.

The week ended with a cyclists' service at the church and a parade back to the birthday tea on the lawn in front of the college. CTC Vice President Josie Dew and Chair of Council David Cox cut the cake, after which Josie gave an hilarious talk on her world cycling adventures. There was a packed barn dance to round off a wonderful week.

Next year the Birthday Rides are in North Shropshire. Details available in January 2012.



Photos by Chris Juden, Mark Waters & Kevin Mayne



NEWS IN BRIEF

▶ A NEW EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Edinburgh hosted the first cycling festival of its kind in Saughton Park on 26 August. Bike Club Officer Amy Hickman teamed up with Edinburgh Leisure's Youth Development Officer, Jenny Jack, to organise the event that offered activities such as a cycling obstacle course, Bikeability Level 1 training sessions, and a skittles game involving a pedal-powered super-soaker. Those who brought their own bike could get a free bike check-up, while Lothian and Borders Police provided a security tagging service. There was also a cyclo-cross race. For more information, see bikeclub.org.uk.

FANCY A NEW SPORTIVE BIKE? PAGE 57

Read about our top three road bike choices for a little over £1,000

▶ NEW GROUP FOR DERBYSHIRE

A meeting will be held at the Blue Bell, High Street, Bolsover, Derbyshire, S44 6HF, on Wednesday 7 November 2011 at 8pm with a view to starting a new CTC Member Group. For information, contact Peter South, PeterSouth.10@Hotmail.com.

▶ EMITREMMUS LITE

As the clocks go back in October, Stevenage cyclists will again mark the occasion with their Summertime Reversed rides. Last year, 358 cyclists took part in the 'Emitremmus Desrever'. This year Stevenage and North Herts CTC are putting on two rides: the usual 101km event and an 'Emit Lite' ride of 67km. Both are on Sunday 30 October. You can find more details and an entry form at stevenagetc.org.uk

▶ MILDENHALL'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Despite typical August Bank Holiday showers, thousands of cyclists visited the 25th edition of the Mildenhall Rally. 'We were full to capacity on the Rally campsite, with nearly 400 pitches occupied, as well as many more staying at local campsites, B&Bs, guest houses and hotels in Mildenhall and the surrounding area,' said Mildenhall CC's Mark Burchett. 'At times spectators were four and five deep around the grass-track racing, as well as those looking round the Trade Show, which had over 25 companies and cycling organisations represented.' For more details, including grass-track results, visit mildenhallrally.org.uk.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

MORE THAN 450 cyclists completed the Phil Liggett Challenge Ride and Sportive in the Peak District on 7 August, including ex-CTC President and commentator Phil Liggett himself, evergreen professional racing cyclist Malcolm Elliott, and CTC Chair of Council David Cox.

There were two routes starting in Sheffield to choose from, 100km and 150km. Both took in classic Peak District climbs – 2,600 metres of them in the longer event, including the long drag of Holme Moss and the super-steep Winnats Pass. Every finisher received a limited edition Liggett cap.

The Phil Liggett Challenge was the fourth sportive in the series. The fifth and final event is the Worcester CTC Challenge Ride and Sportive on

Sunday 16 October. Once again, there will be 100km and 150km route options, with signage, chip timing, feed stops, mechanical backup, and even a broom wagon. There is plenty of parking at the Worcester race course event headquarters.

The routes go over the Malverns and then head north into Shropshire, before returning to Worcester via the killer climb of Wynniatte's Way, a 25% hill that an alternative route option avoids – for anyone whose legs are flagging.

Event entry costs £17 for CTC members and £27 for non-members, with discounts for group entries. Entries for this event close at midnight on 12 October. Enter online at ctcchallengerides.co.uk or download an entry form there.

Sheffield to host CTC AGM

CTC'S AGM and National Dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Victoria Quays, Sheffield on 12 May next year. Hosts Sheffield District CTC Member Group are celebrating their centenary in 2012. As well as the AGM and Dinner, there will be rides to suit all abilities and interests.

There will be a choice of four rides all starting and finishing at the Hilton Hotel: a 100km audax event into

the Peak District National Park covering Longnor, the Roaches, Leek, and returning by Morridge and Youlgreave; a 25-mile moderate ride to Hathersage in the scenic Hope Valley; a 15-mile family/easy ride to Rother Valley Country Park, almost entirely on the Trans Pennine Trail and off-road; and a tour of Sheffield's cycle infrastructure by CTC Right to Ride Representative Simon Geller,

for campaigners, city riders and commuters.

Members visiting Sheffield for a longer period may wish to join other rides in Rotherham or Doncaster. The Sheffield group also holds Wednesday evening pub rides, to which CTC visitors are welcome. For more information, see the Sheffield CTC website, sheffieldctc.org See next issue for a booking form for the Dinner.