MAGAZINE OF CTC - THE UKCO MATICA AL CYCLISTS' ORGANISATION

APR-MAY 2008 23 FREE TO CTC MEMBERS

ctc

FTY-QUID KES

SECONDHAND HACKS V DISCOUNT FLAT-PACK

0

MIKE BURROWS EXPLAINS COMPOSITES

and Bea

Best

the ctc guide to family cycling





THE BEST WAY TO GO CYCLING WITH KIDS

PLUS: FAROES TOURING CAMBRIAN MOUNTAIN BIKING SHOULD CYCLISTS FLY?



FROM THE EDITOR

DAN JOYCE

Cast your mind back to your own childhood, where summer days seemed to stretch ahead forever. Try to imagine those days without your bike. It's impossible. Cycling permeated our lives, whether we were scrambling over scrubland, racing to a friend's house, or popping wheelies in the park - where there really were jumpers for goalposts.

Children's cycling today is more circumscribed, mostly due to parental fears of traffic and strangers. Yet despite the attractions of increasingly immersive computer games, children still like riding bikes. They just need the opportunity, the right equipment, and the necessary skills. You can't force children to become enthusiastic cyclists, but if you give them the right bike and enough chances to use it you won't have to: ultimately, cycling sells itself.

The missing piece of the jigsaw when it comes to children's cycling has, for a long time, been information. But there I think we can help you...



THE CTC GUIDE TO FAMILY CYCLING



CTC's new book is aimed at two groups of people: keen cyclists who have, or are about to have, families; and families who have, or are about to buy, bicycles. The only book of its type, it's available now for just £9.99 - post free. Inside its 196 full-colour pages you'll find everything you need to know about cycling with children, from birth until they're bigger then you. Written by Cycle's editor, Dan Joyce, it includes: What to look for when you buy a bike for yourself or your child • Buyer's guide to child-seats, trailers, trailer-cycles and tandems • How to teach your child to ride Skills for riding on road and off • The best places to cycle.

To order your copy, turn to page 40. Buy one for yourself and a second for a friend and you'll save ± 2 – two copies cost £17.98. Three books are £25.97 and four £31.96, saving £8.

Cycle is the magazine of CTC – the UK's national

Cycles or granisation. The magazine promotes the work of CTC and the CTC Charitable Trust (Registered Charity No. 1104324). Formed in 1878, CTC is the UK's largest cycling membership organisation with 70,000 members and affiliates, To join CTC, turn to page 84 and contact the Membership Dept.

CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX Tel: 0870 873 0060 Fax: 0870 873 0064 Email: cycling@ctc.org.uk Website: www.ctc.org.uk

CTC Patron: Her Majesty the Queen President: Jon Snow

CTC Council Chair: David Robinson CTC (Cyclists' Touring Club) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 25185

Cycle Magazine Editor: Dan Joyce email: editor@ctc.org.uk Designers: Will Slater, Germa Hancock & Gary Milne Advertising: Robert Forisky tel: 0207 306 0300 x127 email: ctc@mongoosemedia.com Creative Director: James Houston Publisher: James Pembroke Cycle is published six times per year on behalf of CTC



Contents

Features

0

- **22** The cycling forecast Touring on the Faroe Islands
- **29** Cambrian mountain biking 100 miles off-road across Wales, from the border to the sea
- 35 Down your way: the Cotswolds CTC Cheltenham's Birthday Rides route
- 38 Happy families The best way to ride on the road with kids
- **43** CTC AGM Agenda Followed by the Annual Report
- **46** Should cyclists fly? Reluctantly or not at all?
- 48 Fifty-quid bikes Discount flat-pack versus secondhand hacks
- **57** Carbon cycle Mike Burrows explains the black stuff

Regulars

- 04 CTC shop
- 06 News
- **14** Events news
- **16** Your letters
- **31** Holiday guide
- 60 Health

FREE P&P

see nage 40

- **62** Cycling answers
- 67 Gear reviews
- 72 What's on
- 73 Prize draw
- 75 CTC small ads
- 82 CTC member benefits
- 84 CTC contacts
- 85 Travellers' tales
- 87 CTC Cycling Holidays

by James Pembroke Publishing, 90 Walcot Street, Bath, BA1 SBG. Tel: 01225 337777. Cycle is copyright CTC, James Pembroke Publishing and individual contributors. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission from CTC and James Pembroke Publishing is forbidden. Views expressed in the magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the policies of CTC. Advertising bookings are subject to availability, the terms and conditions of Mongoose Media and final approval by CTC. Printed by St Ives (Plymouth) Ltd, Eastern Wood Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 SET. Tel: 01752 349431 Eastern Wood Roa Tel: 01752 349431

Cover photo & 'p38' photo above: by Cycling Images/Jason Patient