

A cycling summer

With the weather hopefully warmer at last, it's time for big summer bike rides, cycling rallies and holidays. Here's just a taste of what's coming up in the months ahead.

June

The CTC Triennial Veterans' Rides – 100-mile rides for cyclists aged 50 and over – kick off at various places around the country from 12th June. See last issue or www.ctc.org.uk/trivets for details, or call 0844 736 8450. Note that places are limited.

The weekend of 19th and 20th June sees CTC's flagship cycling event: the CTC York Cycle Show (right). There will be rides for all abilities, a retail show, cycling displays and exhibitions, camping, social events and more. It takes place on the racecourse at York and entry to the main site is free. For information, visit www.yorkcycleshow.co.uk or tel: 0870 873 0066.

The first of CTC's summer sportives, the Ron Kitching Challenge Ride, leaves the York Cycle Show site on the morning of 19th June to take in a scenic circuit of the North York Moors. There are 100 and 150km options, and both raise valuable funds for the CTC Charitable Trust. See www.ctc.org.uk/challengerides.

National Bike Week starts on 19th June too, running until 27th June. This national celebration of cycling will see events around the country. For information, visit www.bikeweek.org.uk.

July

July isn't just Tour de France time. From 23rd-26th July it's the Welsh Festival of

Cycling in beautiful rural Wales at Rhosgoch, near Hay on Wye. There will be five rides each day, including traditional touring, audax and off-road routes, and camping is available on site. For more information or to book, visit www.cyclefestwales.org.uk.

At the same time, from 23rd-31st July, the New Forest Cycling Week takes place in Hampshire. This cycle-camping week is geared specifically for families. For information, contact john.capell@btinternet.com.

August

CTC's second summer sportive, the Phil Liggett Challenge Ride, takes place on Sunday 8th August. As with the Ron Kitching Challenge, there are 100 and 150km route options, both of which raise funds for the CTC Charitable Trust. There's no gentle start here though: you're straight into the Peak District on roads made famous in the Milk Race of old that past CTC President Phil Liggett (who will be riding) used to organise. For more information, visit www.ctc.org.uk/challengerides.

Later in August, from 19th-25th, the CTC Birthday Rides take place in Falmouth in Cornwall. As we went to press, there was still limited availability in self-catering apartments and for half board but the campsites had almost all been



allocated. As time is now short for new bookings, members should contact CTC Holidays and Tours local organiser Paul Parkinson directly on 01326 372934 or email brctcparky@live.com.

The very end of August is rounded off by the popular Mildenhall Rally in Suffolk. See www.mildenhallrally.org.uk for more information.

CTC/CYCLINATION CONFERENCE

The twice-yearly conference of cycle campaigners from CTC and Cyclenation (the federation of local cycle campaign groups) was hosted by the Portsmouth Cycle Forum on 17th April.

Portsmouth is Britain's first city to apply 20mph speed limits to almost all its residential streets, and the conference featured presentations from a local councillor, officer and

campaigner on what this has done for the city.

Another political perspective was provided by Cllr Ian Hudspeth, the Conservative lead councillor for transport in Oxfordshire, who provided fascinating insights about the politics of introducing 20mph limits not just on Oxford's side-streets but also on some of its main roads.

Other presentations and workshops

looked at the pros and cons of Dutch-style 'shared space' street designs, whether the law adequately protects cyclists (including a presentation from Paul Kitson from CTC's solicitors RJW, who provided sponsorship for the conference) and the prospects for cycling after the election.

The presentations can be viewed at www.pompeybug.co.uk/conference/programme.

Roughride ahead



The eighth edition of the Marin Roughride takes place on 13th June, with a choice of 48km and 75km routes on 'natural' trails in the Welsh Marches. The event isn't a race – it's more like an off-road equivalent of a CTC Challenge Ride. And it *is* challenging: the longer route has more than 7,000 feet of climbing.

The Marin Roughride is one of the biggest mountain bike enduro events in the UK. It is a CTC-insured event, set up and run by CTC members. The last two years have seen entries above 900, and despite this winter's weather entry numbers are up for 2010, with no advertising budget. However, it's not an event for everyone. With no forestry grade roads and only six kilometres of tarmac, it's a tough test, albeit a laid-back one. But if you're fit and love wild scenery and natural terrain it might be just what you're looking for. Visit www.roughride.co.uk and make your own mind up.

If you do want a more competitive edge to your endurance riding, CTC is also involved in the CRC Marathon Series, which is already underway. Events remain at Grassington (3rd-4th July), Selkirk (31st July-1st August) and Ruthin (18th-19th September). For more details, visit www.mtb-marathon.co.uk.



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