



Cycle advocacy on the road

CTC is running a series of cycle promotion roadshows for cycling groups, community workers and campaigners. **Chris Jubb** reports

THE ROADSHOWS are UK-wide. Each showcases local case studies, so delegates can see how CTC is running cycling programmes to address social, economic and health issues.

The recent CTC Yorkshire Roadshow in Leeds on 8 December featured a wide range of projects. The session started with Airtrooper Keiran Murphy from the military group based at Dishforth Barracks. Keiran highlighted how cycling can act as a tool to help social integration and build community cohesion; the barracks' cycling programme is similar in this respect to the military wives choir shown on TV.

Reaching out with cycling

Next were Andy Jackson from ReCycle (based at the Heeley Development Trust, Sheffield) and Nathan Heath from 7ks Enterprise College. They both explained how cycling and bike maintenance can be used to reach people isolated by mainstream society.

Rachel Woodward, a project manager with CTC Challenge for Change, introduced Workplace Cycle Challenges and talked about the successes of the York Challenge in getting more people cycling every day.

Then Richard Davis from a mental health project in Sheffield talked about his experience of a CTC cycling-for-health project. The project greatly

helped people who have suffered from long-term health conditions.

Finally, John Dennis from Cycle Bradford talked about professional and voluntary partnership working. He stressed the need to adapt and review strategies, rather than simply signing them off and letting them run to their conclusion.

Lively discussion between delegates over lunch was followed by a Q&A session. Delegates then split up for the last session of the day to attend workshops on social, economic, health or campaigns related issues.

'It was very interesting to listen to such varied case studies, and hear direct from the people that CTC Development Officers have worked with,' said delegate Lynnette Evans, Cycling Officer for Kirklees Council. 'Cycling is such an accessible, tangible and useful tool through which to engage with people and bring positive change in their lives.'

Four CTC roadshows have already taken place in Yorkshire, Midlands, the North East and the North West. Early in 2012, the CTC Wales Roadshow is booked for 25 January in Cardiff. The CTC South East Roadshow follows on 1 February in London.

For more information about the roadshows, email cycling@ctc.org.uk or telephone CTC on 0844 736 8450.



(Top left) Kevin Mayne at the Leeds Roadshow
(Top) Participants in a 'cycling for health' programme in Sheffield
(Above) Teenagers newly qualified in cycle maintenance

NEWS IN BRIEF

› CTC 2012 AGM & DINNER

Tickets are still available for the CTC National Dinner in Sheffield on 12 May 2012, the same day as the AGM. Both events take place at the Hilton Hotel, Victoria Quays in Sheffield City Centre. The Dinner is a high point of the CTC's social calendar and is a chance to meet other members and to celebrate their achievements; prizes such as the Volunteer of the Year Awards are to be awarded. Sheffield District CTC are hosting the event, which is one of many celebrations throughout the year in the Sheffield District to help celebrate one hundred years of an active CTC group in the Sheffield and South Yorkshire area. On Sunday 12 May, four rides ranging from a family cyclepath ride to a 100km audeax are on offer. For queries about the Dinner & Prize Presentation, contact Sue Cherry: **01483 238302, sue.cherry@ctc.org.uk**

› CTC CHALLENGE RIDES & SPORTIVES

For 2012 there will be eight CTC Challenge Rides, including two off-road events, at six different venues across England. Entries are now open online at ctcchallengerides.co.uk. Each event costs £27, although CTC members get a £10.00 discount and any team of four riders can enter for £60. The events in full are: **25*-26 February, Ride to the Pies, Dorset; 18 March, North West Challenge, Manchester; 26*-27 May, Guildford; 23 June, Ron Kitching, York; 19 August, Phil Liggett, Sheffield; 14 October, Tour of Worcester. The off-road events are denoted by asterisks. Every event will be fully signed and supported, with feed stations and mechanical backup.**

› 6TH CTC GRAMPIAN RALLY

The CTC Grampian Rally runs from Friday 1 June to Wednesday 6 June this year. It takes place at Templars Park, South Deeside Road, Maryculter, Aberdeen. On the Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday there will be led rides of 20, 40 and 60 miles, followed by entertainment each evening, culminating with a ceilidh dance and meal on the Tuesday night. For full details, contact Heather Reid, **01224 873380, h_w_reid@talktalk.net**. See also the CTC Grampian website, ctcgrampian.org.uk



Photos: courtesy of Jim Brown

CTC TOURIST COMPETITION

THE 30TH YEAR of the CTC Tourist Competition saw a north-south split of the major prizes. Mike Batchelor of West London was first overall for the third time, and first male veteran for the fourth successive year. He will be presented with the Shaftsbury Trophy and Arthur Moss Medal at the CTC National Dinner in May.

The contest was a close one. Batchelor won by the tie-break rule ahead of Peter Dilworth of Chester and North Wales. Third place was decided by a tie-break too, with Andy Polakowski (also Chester and North Wales) finishing ahead of regular contender Mark Beauchamp.

Lowri Evans (Chester and North Wales) retained the Ladies Trophy for 2011, while Annie Birch from West London rode the maximum number of qualifying events and won the Lady Veteran Trophy for the first time.

With individual riders from Chester and North Wales doing so well, it was no surprise to see them winning the team competition – a record seventh victory. The team members were Peter Dilworth, Andy Polakowski, Lowri Evans, Dave Statham, Martin Thompson and Darryl Porrino. Huddersfield and District were in second place again this year.

In the Mille Miglia Challenge, three members from the London area rode over 3,000km in Tourist Competition events and achieved the gold standard: Tim Sollesse, Mike Batchelor and Andrew Cornwell.

The problem of obtaining results continues. Many members remain uncertain as to which group they belong, so it is hard to determine Home and Away points. If you think that your score is incorrect, please let me know.

My thanks to Mark Draper for his website work and advice during a difficult year for the competition.

For the full programme of 2012 events, visit ctc-competitions.org.uk.

Bob Kynaston

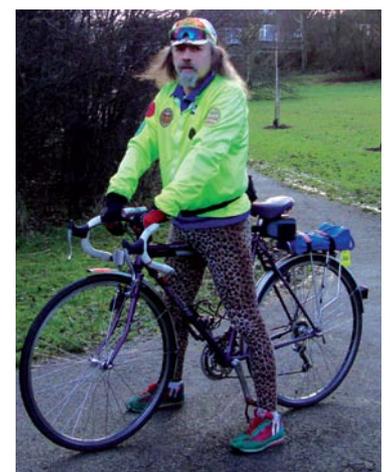


Photo: Mike Batchelor

CTC BIRTHDAY RIDES 2012

THE RURAL MARKET town of Ellesmere in Shropshire is the base for this year's CTC Birthday Rides, from 13-19 August. Accommodation is at Ellesmere College (ellesmere.com), where camping and caravan pitches will also be provided.

Ellesmere has easy cycling terrain in its immediate vicinity, as well as more challenging terrain further afield in South Shropshire and North Wales

for harder riders. The canal network, fed by water from the Horseshoe Falls at nearby Llangollen, is only a few hundred metres from the college, offering quiet towpath rides or walks.

There will be a range of rides each day. One ride will start with a one-way bike-bus trip to South Shropshire, enabling participants to make their way back to Ellesmere at the own pace and by their preferred

route – via the Long Mynd, Stiperstones, or on easier roads. Another day out by coach will be to Shrewsbury and back, to explore this old town.

Evening entertainments will take place throughout the week, concluding with the customary barn dance.

For more information and to download a booking pack, visit the website birthdayrides.org.