

During this strange lockdown period when riding in a group is not feasible, the local East Riding of Yorkshire CTC group has been looking at ways in which we can emerge from the current situation with a viable organisation. Prior to Corona virus hitting the country we were already experiencing a number of subtle but unmistakable changes in the way the group operated. For a start the age profile of the group has been getting steadily older as the years progressed. I am sure that many other physical activity groups that have been going for many years (ours is more than 90 years established) may well have experienced similar phenomena, where the participants age, and sadly some lose the ability or desire to continue to be involved, and younger newer members are few in number.

This poses a dilemma for any organisation. Do we continue in our previous ways and risk dwindling away or do we take a look at what we do and try something different.

I was approached to be Secretary to the group in 2020. As an incomer (albeit some 20 years ago) to Yorkshire this was indeed an honour! At a committee meeting in November 2020 I suggested running a survey to see what the (much wider) group of Cycling UK membership living locally might expect or like to see their local group organise.

As a well-established group we had a pattern of: Sunday Rides (30-50 miles at medium or gentle pace), Thursday Rides (sometimes a different weekday depending on weather - rarely more than 40 miles), a couple of social events (Christmas Lunch, a Club Dinner with awards presentation), a 6-8 nights away Bike Bus holiday to near continent annually, a North Sea Dash making use of overnight Hull Ferries, a Bike Jumble sale, a Sportive, assistance and participation in the CTC York Rally, some years a

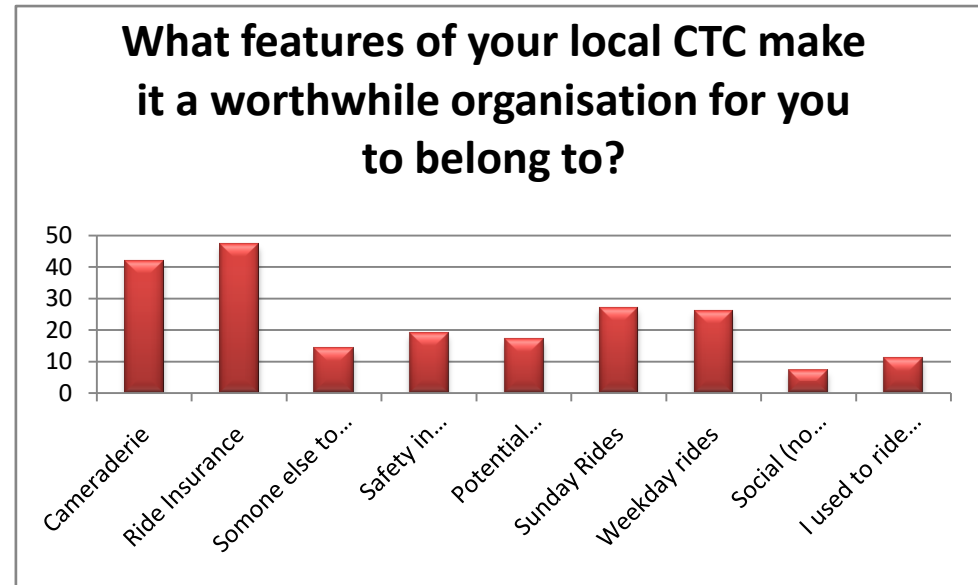
Standard Ride and so on. I am sure many groups around the country will recognise such a pattern.

We are very fortunate in this area with an enviable network of relatively quiet roads, cycle access to the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds from our doorsteps and some rail trails for the off-roader/gravel-bikers. The North Yorks Moors and Yorkshire Dales are within less than a couple of hours drive, and as indicated Holland is but an overnight ferry ride away.

It was observable that the way individual members were approaching the planned rides was changing. Groups were becoming a bit rebellious/anarchic! For instance the ride leader would propose a route and a stop, and he/she may be overruled or just "ignored" by those who wanted an earlier coffee stop at a favoured cafe. Riders may not always have observed the etiquette of not going ahead of the leader. Whilst always being aware of looking after all riders in the group, there was getting to be more of a spread of ability or comfort with a given pace. It was not always easy, in these situations to accommodate everyone's wishes and so splinter groups would form, people would join rides along the way or leave them early.

So how to move forward in an age of democracy? The survey I set up on SurveyMonkey attempted to reach people we do not commonly meet on any of our rides and see what they might get involved in and what expectations they have of the local group. I emailed the link to the survey out to 305 locally-resident C-UK members (we typically have about 80 who are active in group rides and/or socially) and had a total of 77 responses in the time frame (I was unfortunately unable to access 7 of these ). What follows are the questions responses and anonymised comments.

Q1	<b>What features of your local CTC make it a worthwhile organisation for you to belong to?</b>	
	<b>Sample size 70</b>	
	Cameraderie	42
	Ride Insurance	47
	Someone else to navigate the route	14
	Safety in numbers	19
	Potential puncture/"mechanical" fixer	17
	Sunday Rides	27
	Weekday rides	26
	Social (no longer riding)	7
	I used to ride and want to stay in touch	11



**Q1 Comments:**

- Cafe stops are a must Living in Market Weighton it is difficult for me to join rides. (rides usually start in Cottingham )
- all the above. I have yet to enquire about a local group, which would be quite beneficial
- I get to see parts of East Yorkshire I wouldn't otherwise see. It keeps me fit and healthy and increases well being.
- They may have some better or different routes to the ones I use
- I can ride even though I am visually impaired
- I joined it for the magazine and the insurance cover.

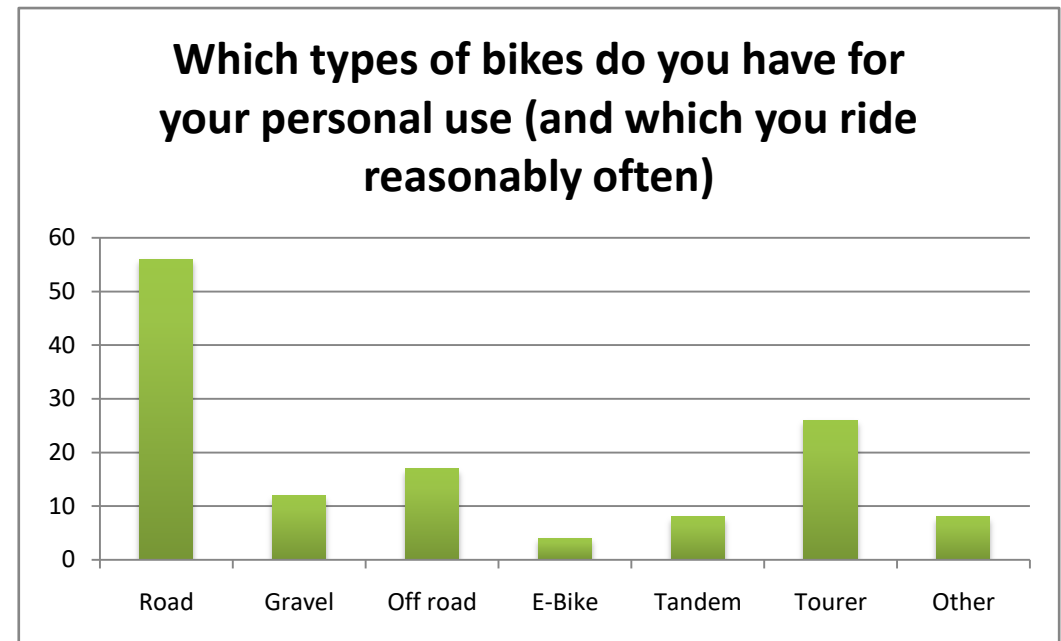
- I have yet to take advantage of the groups in the East riding, having a growing family, so primarily it is the insurance, and the national campaigning I'm a member for. However, in the future I would hope to join some group rides, and probably should pursue contacting people to do this soon
- I am a geriatric who returned to cycling after retirement some 20 years ago. I tend to ride alone but appreciate the back-up from CTC
- I think Cycling UK has become much more the political voice of cycling compared to the CTC, so just wondering about lobbying the local politicians / council to improve cycling facilities
- I read the magazine. I am especially interested in the provision and good design of cycleways and cycle paths.
- Humour!
- Learning about the local area, churches, local history etc.

Q2

**Sample size 70**

Road	56
Gravel	12
Off road	17
E-Bike	4
Tandem	8
Tourer	26
Other	8

**Which types of bikes do you have for your personal use (and which you ride reasonably often)**



Q2 comments: "Other" sorts of bike:

- Brompton
- Folding
- Flat barred road bike also used for light touring. So a bit of a hybrid do it all.
- Tank
- Folder
- Mainly road cycling, but selling my Dawes Supergalaxy in favour of a more modern gravel/tourer.
- Folder
- Road bike, 29er MTB (used for bike packing) and 26er MTB (used for commuting)
- All season road

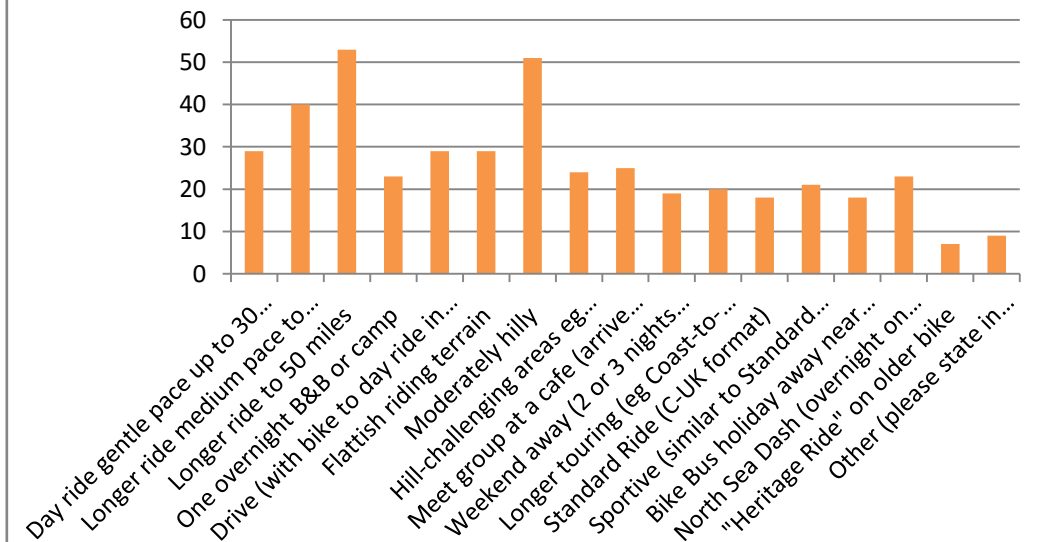
Q3

Sample size 70

Which of the following ride activities might you join in with?

Day ride gentle pace up to 30 miles	29
Longer ride medium pace to 40 miles	40
Longer ride to 50 miles	53
One overnight B&B or camp	23
Drive (with bike to day ride in new area	29
Flattish riding terrain	29
Moderately hilly	51
Hill-challenging areas eg North Yorks Moors	24
Meet group at a cafe (arrive seperately by other means)	25
Weekend away (2 or 3 nights away)	19
Longer touring (eg Coast-to-Coast or LeJoG)	20
Standard Ride (C-UK format)	18
Sportive (similar to Standard ride but more informal)	21
Bike Bus holiday away near continent	18
North Sea Dash (overnight on Hull Ferries)	23
"Heritage Ride" on older bike	7
Other (please state in comments box)	9

### Which of the following ride activities might you join in with?

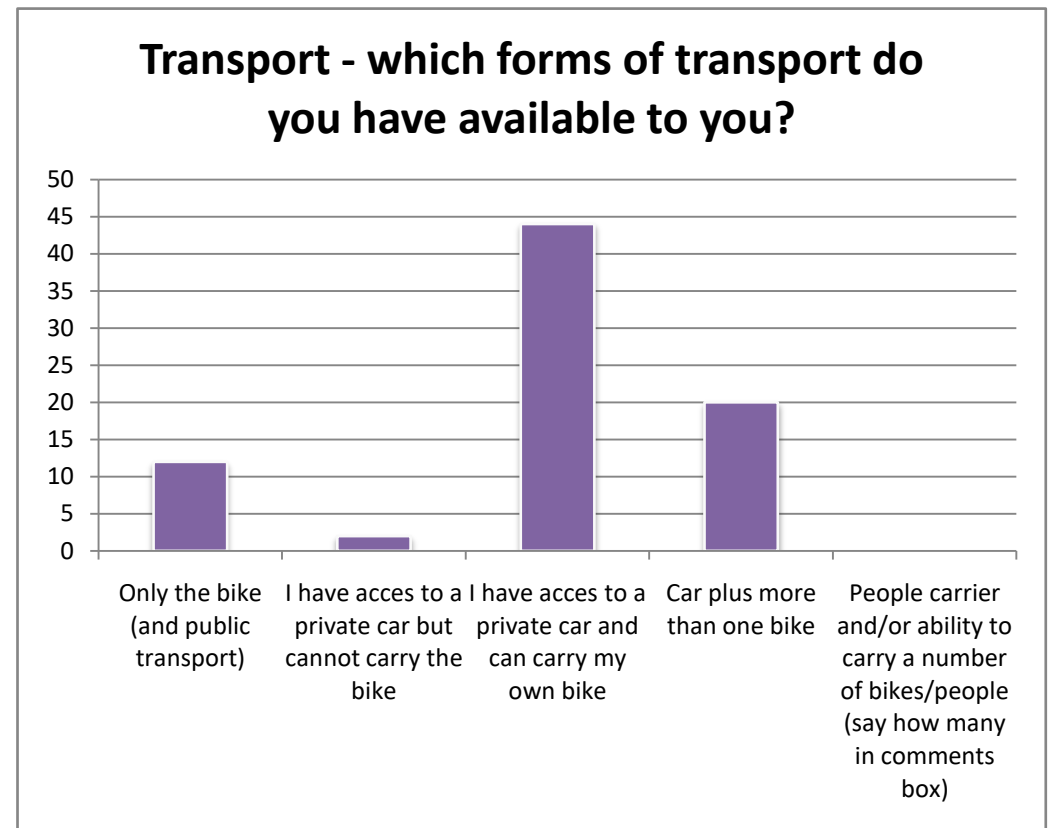


Q3 Comments:

- I have done Audax rides in the past and am thinking about doing some again
- Germany might be nice. If practical as a bus holiday
- I did coast to coast on my own in 2020. Would have been better with others.
- None
- since being a re-born cyclist I normally ride alone. i could join a local group but I chose to make last minute decisions about ride timing.
- I usually ride on my own or with one Ex teaching friend

Q4	<b>Sample size 70</b>	
	Only the bike (and public transport)	12
	I have acces to a private car but cannot carry the bike	2
	I have acces to a private car and can carry my own bike	44
	Car plus more than one bike	20
	People carrier and/or ability to carry a number of bikes/people (say how many in comments box)	0

**Transport - which forms of transport do you have available to you?**



Q4 Comments:

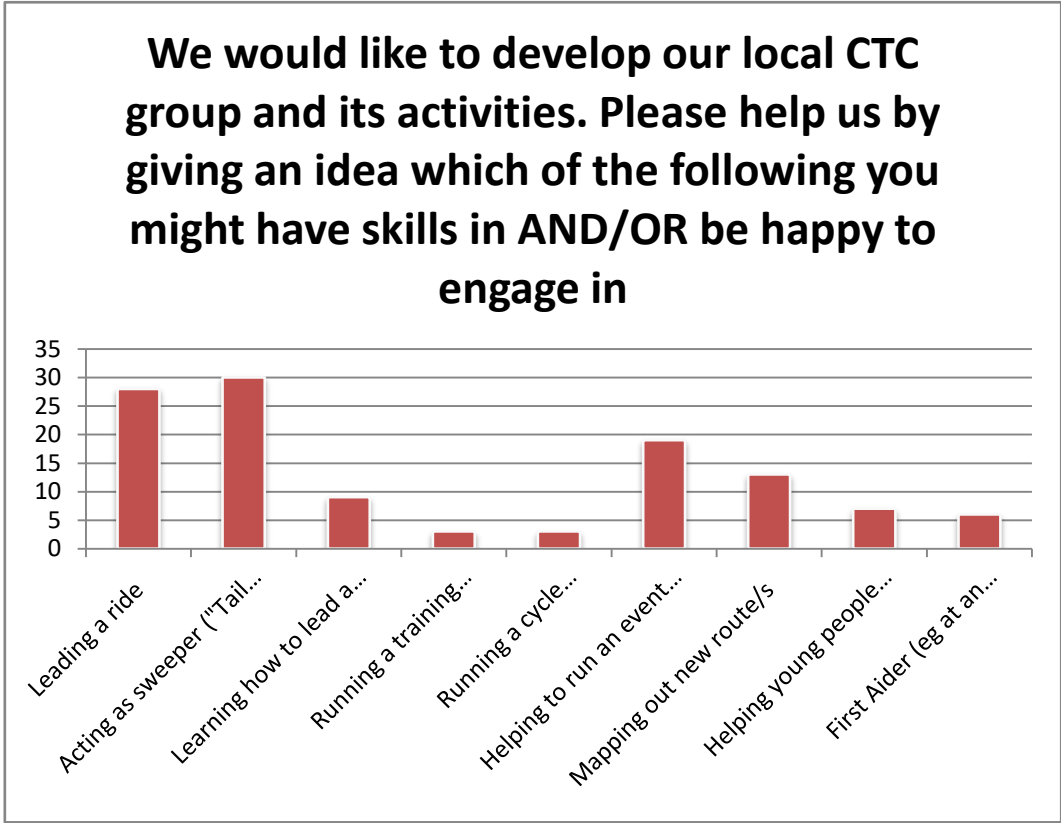
- Tend to cycle from Home, but have a bike carrier I use occasionally
- We normally have a car which takes our bikes but it died in May and we haven't bothered replacing it yet because of all the restrictions.
- Could possibly fit a compact bike ( I have Bromptons )
- can carry 4 bikes, yeah could give others a lift
- Car can carry two front passengers and two bikes with its rear seats down
- I would be happy to give other members a ride.
- 2 bikes max, though a bit reluctant to take 2 to avoid scrapes to paintwork.
- I can carry 2 bikes on a roof rack.
- Have taken two bikes but not really easy
- My bike plus my wife's
- at least 3, possibly 4 bikes. I would need to meet the group first
- I very much prefer not to drive to rides
- Up to 7 bikes and 2 or 3 passengers depending on luggage and distance

Q5

Sample size 70

Leading a ride	28
Acting as sweeper ("Tail End Charlie")	30
Learning how to lead a ride	9
Running a training session for new ride leaders	3
Running a cycle maintenance course	3
Helping to run an event (eg Marshalling at a Standard/Sportive ride)	19
Mapping out new route/s	13
Helping young people to ride safely	7
First Aider (eg at an event)	6

We would like to develop our local CTC group and its activities. Please help us by giving an idea which of the following you might have skills in AND/OR be happy to engage in



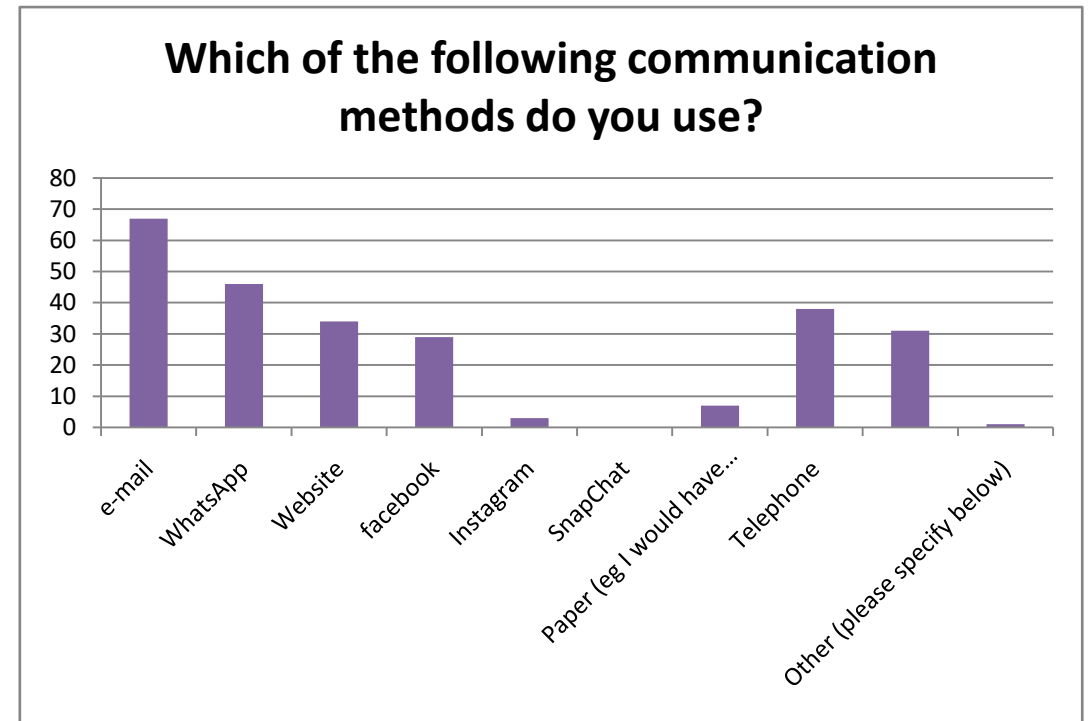


Q5 Comments:

- I have only been on a small number of "CTC" club rides and can't say they were well run, there was an absence of leadership and communication, poor direction as to the route and stops. Didn't feel particularly welcomed generally. It doesn't take much to stand up and tell everyone what the arrangements are, but it never happened in my experiences. I can believe newcomers can be put off. I would like the local group to tell me when the AGM is, who the Officers are, send me a copy of the runs list (e-mail) etc. I believe both of these are my right as a fully paid up member.
- I probably appear to be a miserable devil but I prefer riding on my own, can go where I like , when I like and at my own pace.
- None of the above (at the moment) due to an ongoing injury, which I am trying to overcome.
- Just to explain the above: I'm a Breeze and Guided Ride leader so I've been trained by British Cycling.
- Assistant !
- I usually ride on my own now that the local cycling club has folded
- Plan a couple of new rides or changes to some of our existing ones. To follow via GPX on Garmin's etc
- I'm not interested in these options thanks
- Not at this stage
- Happy to ride on my own really.
- all a bit too late in my stage of life
- N/A
- I work for the charity Giroscope which has a bike project based at Selby Street in Hull. This accommodates volunteers (often people disadvantaged or excluded from the community). We would be keen to develop maintenance sessions.

Q6	<b>Sample size 70</b>	
	e-mail	67
	WhatsApp	46
	Website	34
	facebook	29
	Instagram	3
	SnapChat	0
	Paper (eg I would have preferred to complete this survey on paper)	7
	Telephone	38
	face-to-face communication when meeting in person	31
	Other (please specify below)	1

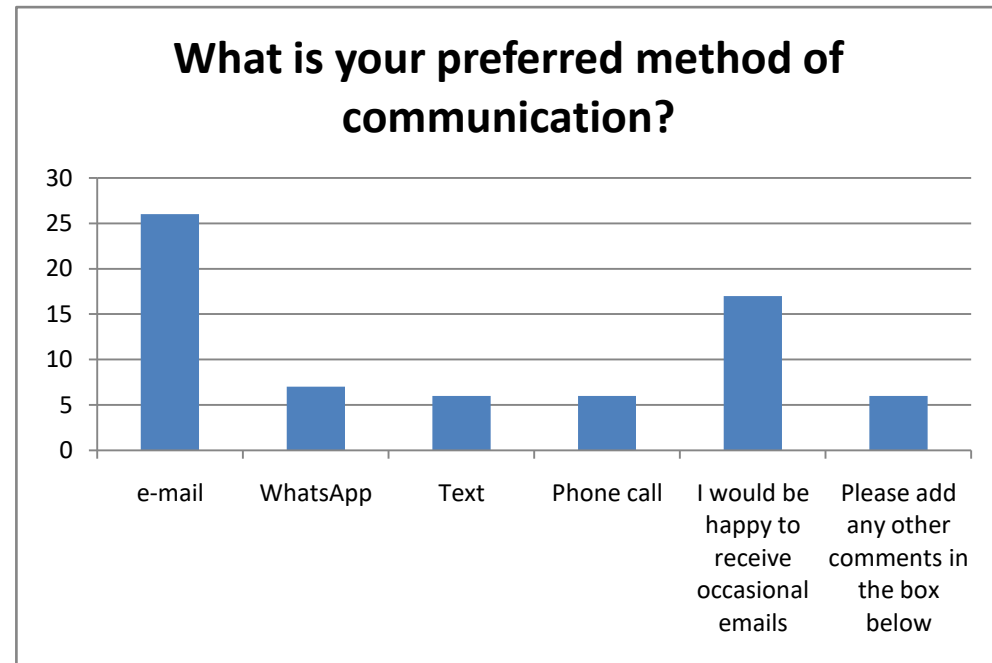
**Which of the following communication methods do you use?**



Q6 Comment:

- WhatsApp and email most useful

Q7	<b>Sample size 30</b>	<b>What is your preferred method of communication?</b>
	e-mail	26
	WhatsApp	7
	Text	6
	Phone call	6
	I would be happy to receive occasional emails	17
	Please add any other comments in the box below	6



Q7 & general Comments:

- Bring back the challenge rides. A day or two away camping would be great or longer by bike. Kind regards.
- I miss the local newsletter
- Many thanks
- refer back to Q1. I hope to use my membership more so in the future
- The pace of the group is important. It became very slow in our area. But might get in touch again when the weather and covid improve
- Many groups have mandatory helmet rules. I don't wear a helmet.

What can be seen from the results indicate that the Insurance, C-UK magazine and camaraderie amongst the group feature high in peoples list of desirable attributes. Being contacted "out of the blue" (particularly at this strange time perhaps) was not resented, indeed maybe even valued. Quite a high number of people are prepared to put themselves forward to lead a ride and even more to act as sweeper. If/when we run future events there are people prepared to lend a hand and/or expertise and if we do put on events out of the usual run of what we have been doing, it suggests that with the right publicity they should be viable

There was one comment which hit home about how the rides might be better conducted/led (I do not know if their experiences had been with our local group or another, but the point about communication and pre-planned route/route finding on gpx perhaps was well made).

It is too early within the pandemic and lockdown to start setting a programme, but already the committee is looking at factoring in a monthly ride with an historical focus on interesting churches, and two of the committee are taking up the challenge of liaising with the local authority over matters cycling, and have received some support already from the National Campaigns officer. And we are actively developing our publicity and our website

C-UK's web facilities enable contact with those that live in the area who have given an email address, and this (along with WhatsApp) was predominantly favoured by respondents (a bit of a foregone conclusion as the link was sent out by email!), and we will certainly make more and I suspect greater use of that in the future.

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