

For a full list of events over the next two months, turn to page 68.

Family time

Families are the focus of this year's Bike Week, the UK's national celebration of cycling that takes place from 14th-22nd June. Mum, dad and kids are being challenged to get out of the car, step away from the TV and get on their bikes as a way of getting fit and having fun together.

Bike Week Manager Andre Curtis said: 'Plenty of parents have forgotten how much fun cycling was as a child. We want this year's Bike Week to revive those memories and act as a catalyst for families to spend more quality time together.'

As ever, it's a fantastic opportunity for CTC members to get local communities to join in by organising events. To do so, visit the event website www.bikeweek.org.uk to register and download an Event Organiser Guide – or phone 0845 612 0661. The guide is full of ideas and inspiration for organising and promoting events. More than half a million people got on their bikes last year, and with Nokia as the title sponsor and Sport Relief as official charity, it's hoped that this June will be bigger still.

Nokia are on board because their latest mobile phones now come equipped with built in GPS and maps, which can help cyclists plan trips, find new places to explore or simply

find the quickest route from A to B. And for those keen on keeping fit, Nokia's new Sports Tracker enables users to track their speed, distance and time as well as monitor their pulse-rate.

Sport Relief is Comic Relief and BBC Sport's fundraising initiative. Bike Week events are a great way to raise money for Sport Relief, helping change lives here in the UK and in the world's poorest countries. Find out more at www.sportrelief.com.

Bike Week events are many and varied, from rides through to Dr Bike check up sessions and more. You can even find out what's involved in becoming an accredited cycling instructor, and experience a couple of riding modules from the course, at Cycle Training UK's Bike Week event in London on 18th June. To register for that – it's free – email maresha@cycletraining.co.uk. See www.bikeweek.org.uk for what's on in your area.

The last weekend of Bike Week coincides with the York Cycle Show, when thousands of cyclists descend on York Racecourse to enjoy a full programme of day rides, exhibitions from clubs and the trade, arena events, and – on Saturday 21st – the Ron Kitching CTC Challenge Ride in the North York Moors. For more details, see www.yorkcycleshow.co.uk.



Photo: Adam Coffman

CYCLING INTO THE FUTURE

CAMBRIDGE & DERBY

How long before we have a cycling culture in the UK? That was the theme of the Spring CTC and Cycle Campaign Network conference on 10th May. Delegates discussed the future of cycling in the UK with the Guardian's Matt Seaton, the Chair of Cycling England Philip Darnton, London Cycling Campaign's Koy Thomson, CTC's Chris Peck, CTC Right to Ride Simon Geller, Martin Lucas-Smith of Cambridge Cycling Campaign and MP for Cambridge David Howarth.

Cambridge has the highest rate of cycling in the UK, with more than 25% of journeys to work made by bike. The conference examined what made Cambridge a successful cycling city and looked at plans to get even more people travelling by bike. Cambridge Cycle Campaign launched their 2020 vision for the city and will give all delegates a copy of the 36-page colour brochure. The conference included practical workshop sessions on marketing, online mapping, using the media and recruiting new members. There were also social rides and events from Friday 9th May through to Sunday 11th May.

Debra Rolfe, CTC's Cycling Development Officer – Local Campaigns, said: 'This conference offered help, advice and the magic ingredient of inspiration to help turn our dreams of a cycling culture into a reality.'

DERBY DAYS

A Muslim boys' youth group involved in bike recycling gave one of the presentations at the CTC Groups Conference in Derby on 23rd and

24th February. Other presentations from Cycle Derby and the Derby Schools Community Cycling Club looked out how to engage and encourage young people in general into cycling.

Workshop sessions afterwards focused on volunteer development and equality and diversity issue. The new toolkit for CTC groups was launched and well received. Some excellent ideas came from these sessions, which helped National Office staff to understand the grassroots needs of groups and volunteers.

On the second day, a morning ride led by Ian Hill of Derby CTC was followed by a project planning session. Groups were asked to create a project that would encourage more people to take up cycling, with a prize for the most creative scheme. The Birthday Rides re-enactment was a clear winner.

Feedback from delegates was positive and all wanted to see the conference as a regular feature in the events calendar. Thanks to everyone involved for contributing their time and energy over the weekend to make the conference a success. Email events@ctc.org.uk to request a copy of the conference notes.

A similar conference will be held further south this autumn. CTC Councillor Barry Jordan is organising a south-east networking day for groups, Right to Ride representatives and cycle trainers. This will take place at the CTC National Office in Guildford on the 27th September 2008. For further details, contact Barry on 01795 429061 or email hjb536@blueyonder.co.uk.



AGM & Dinner visit Northern Ireland

BELFAST

Eighty years after CTC Northern Ireland formed, cyclists from across the UK gathered in Belfast on 26th April for the Annual General Meeting, National Dinner and Awards. This was the first time that the AGM has been held in Northern Ireland. Another first was the introduction of proxy voting, which enabled those members who could not make the trip to have an input.

Most of the resolutions were passed with a clear majority in the meeting and in the larger number of votes cast by proxy. The exception was resolution 10. This motion called for services provided to groups to be changed or enhanced. The Council supported the

principle of giving a better service to groups but asked members to vote against the motion because in their view the list of changes were not what groups were asking for and was unnecessarily detailed. The meeting voted 26 to 10 against the motion, with many abstentions. The 300 or so proxy voters who expressed a preference voted in favour – again by 16 votes: a tie. The casting vote went to the chair, Pat Strauss, who followed convention by voting in favour of the status quo – which is to say, against the motion.

The National Dinner and Awards took place that evening at Stormont, home to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Details of the Volunteer of the Year awards can be found on

page 12. They were preceded by speeches from Permanent Secretary for the Department of Regional development Paul Priestly and CTC Chair David Robinson. Copies of both speeches are available on the CTC website (www.ctc.org.uk/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=5064).

After the awards, Rod King of Warrington Cycle Campaign presented Shivaji Shiva of the Cyclists' Defence Fund with a cheque for more than £1,000 from the sale of their book, 'Crap Cycle Lanes'. All royalties from the book have been donated to the CDF and due to demand more copies are being printed. Crap Cycle Lanes costs £4.99 plus p&p from www.eye-books.com/index_imprints.asp.

EVENTS IN BRIEF

YORK CYCLE SHOW

Join thousands of cyclists on York Racecourse on the weekend of 21st and 22nd June, when the 64th annual York Cycle Show erects its pavilions once more. There will be events for all, including day rides for all abilities, arena events such as grass track racing, cycle polo and a mountain bike display team, and traditional favourites like the saddlebag sale and auction. On the Saturday morning, the Ron Kitching Challenge Ride leaves the racecourse, while on Sunday there's a cyclists' service at York Minster followed by a parade of cyclists to the cycle show. For

• details, see www.yorkcycleshow.co.uk or
• call 0870 873 0066.

CTC'S SPORTIVE RIDES

• Two of CTC's Challenge Rides – the
• only sportive rides that raise money for
• cycle campaigning – take place in June,
• with the David Duffield Challenge on 1st
• June and the Ron Kitching Challenge on
• 21st June. The David Duffield Challenge
• offers rides of 150km, 100km and 28km
• through rolling Wiltshire countryside and
• sets off from Corsham near Bath from
• 9.30am onwards, while the Ron Kitching
• Challenge heads from York Racecourse
• at 8.00am onwards into the North York

• Moors on 150km and 100km loops.
• Each costs £12.50 to enter for CTC or
• AUK members to enter, or £15 for non-
• members. You can enter on the day, but
• do allow yourself plenty of time to sign
• on. For more details, see www.ctc.org.uk/challengerides or call 0870 873 0060.

BIRTHDAY RIDES ADDENDUM

• Last issue Cycle included a ride for this
• year's Birthday Rides in the Cotswolds.
• This ride now will take place during the
• week and not on the Sunday, which
• clashes with a Classic car event that will
• create busier roads. For more, see www.birthdayrides.org or tel: 0113 262 2328.