

CYCLE LETTERS

Write to: Cycle Letters, CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX, or email cycleletters@ctc.org.uk



NOT RIGHT ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

I am an Isle of Wight resident, CTC member and very keen mountain biker. Mountain biking on the island is a thriving sport and there is a large number of good bridleways. Unfortunately, none of the photographs shown in Cycle were taken on or near a bridleway and this is likely to cause some conflict.

The main double-page photograph on pages 22 & 23 was taken on Headon Warren. This is a historically and environmentally sensitive area managed by the National Trust. There are no bridleways in the area and the National Trust are keen to limit erosion to the paths. The photograph is unlikely to be well received.

There are further photographs on page 25. The upper one is also on Headon Warren and the lower two are on Tennyson Down where there are no bridleways either.

There are some superb bridleway routes to the east of Freshwater, one of which is shown on the advert on page 27. Island mountain bikers are very keen to maintain a good relationship with landowners and other users and I do not think it is helpful to actively promote illegal cycling, particularly in areas that are environmentally and historically sensitive.

Name and address supplied

I contacted the writer about this, who replied: 'It is illegal to cycle "on" the warren, but the shots were actually overlooking Headon Warren, not on it. Just like others were overlooking the Needles, Freshwater Bay, etc.'

Having looked at the map segment you sent, however, I see no bridleways, so would like to take the opportunity to apologise for promoting what would

seem to be illegal off-road cycling. CTC campaigns on off-road access, and Cycle magazine would never knowingly print illegal routes. We'll take steps to ensure this doesn't happen again.

WHEN IN RIMINI...

Here is a picture of a cycle lane in Rimini. How about those confusing signs? Very Italian! We ignored them – as everyone else seemed to be doing!

Adrian Dunbar, by email



BRIEFCASES FOR BIKES

Wouldn't it be nice if politicians and business managers went to work by bike? They should set an example. Apart from having to swap your gentleman's attire in favour of cycleshorts, which then necessitates changing, there is the problem of how to carry all those papers and your laptop.

My husband, a newly elected MP, has a pair of panniers which don't fit his new image any more. Where can I get a pair of suitable pannier bags for him? They should:

- have a top opening for easy access to his A4 files and papers;
- safely carry a laptop;
- be waterproof;
- come on and off easily;
- look smart;
- be lockable, perhaps.

Please can you help me source some bags or cases?

Anne Wimberley, Jersey

The Ortlieb Office Bag 2 (£127.80 to CTC members) meets all your requirements and is available from www.ctcshop.org.uk. If you're not too bothered by it being lockable, the soft-shell Ortlieb Office

Bag (£77.40 to CTC members) is also good. Alternatively, the Carradice Bike Bureau (£64.95, www.carradice.co.uk, tel: 01282 615886) is a more traditional-looking option.

As for clothing to wear: with the right bike, you can wear what you like. See the feature starting on page 48.

FINDING NETHERLANDS

I would like to congratulate Miranda Winram on her piece last issue, and for taking the plunge into cycle touring. My first tour, a camping tour on 3-speed utility bikes, was in Ireland. I would also like to recommend that Miranda and her friends obtain and read Mary Elsy's book, 'Pedals and Petticoats', published by Summersdale. A good read, which shows how well one can tour on just basic bikes.

Mark Jacobson, by email

CRASH TEST DOLLS?

I took this picture at Easter of three young children who were out among a large group of children on a cycle ride in Germany, just having a break by way of an ice-cream.

All the young girls in the party had 'Kiddy-seats' on their bikes for their dolls, and each doll wore a cycle-helmet. A further indication that the wearing of cycle-helmets is catching on in Germany too?

I did ask the adults supervising this party if I might take this picture. I didn't obtain any names.

Ted Prangnell, Ashford



RECYCLE YOUR 'CYCLE'
When you've read Cycle, why not give it to a friend – or a doctor's surgery?

NATIONAL CYCLING MUSEUM

We would like to let other CTC members know about the wonderful National Cycling Museum in Llandrindod Wells, Powys, mid-Wales. The museum is a registered charity and completely self-financing and dependant on paying visitors. There are over 250 bicycles on display, dating from 1819-2000, plus an amazing collection of cycling memorabilia.

The area has some great cycling, on and off-road, including Sustrans routes 8 and 81, and the circular Radnor Ring (84 miles). You can even arrive by train as the beautiful 'Heart of Wales' line from Llanelli to Shrewsbury passes through Llandrindod Wells.

For more information about the museum, tel: 01597 825531 or visit www.cyclemuseum.org.uk.

P W Andrew, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire

The step change came in 1993, when Seattle fitted the Sportworks racks to their 1,200 bus-fleet.

'Unfortunately, US racks on the front of buses don't meet EU standards for safety (TRL Report 592). They have been used on the rear and inside of some UK buses. Some other UK services carry bikes inside the bus, much like trains, notably on the Western Isles where it is one of the conditions of carriage. National Express coaches carry dismantled and bagged bikes, as do Stagecoach Express services.'

'For more information on carrying bikes on buses, see CTC Information Sheet INF12: Taking a cycle by bus/coach. You can download this from www.ctc.org.uk or request a copy from National Office.'



BIKES ON BUSES

On a recent holiday to Atlanta, USA, I couldn't help but notice the brilliant way cycles can be transported on buses. The rider simply pulls the rack down, places his cycle on the rack, which secures itself, and boards the bus. The driver doesn't even need to assist. Why can't something like this be added to buses in the UK as it seems impossible to use buses if cycling?

John Bland, Braintree, Essex

CTC Public Transport Campaigner Dave Holladay replies: 'Sportworks racks like this are fitted to over half the US bus fleet. Bikes started to be carried on US buses in 1976 to stop cyclists making illicit use of freeway bridges.'

articles for newcomers to cycling. Anyone who doesn't know a chainset from a sprocket can easily find out by a visit to a bookshop or library. Technical articles in Cycle should concentrate on information and advice that cannot easily be obtained elsewhere.

CR Ayers, Bagley, Ellesmere

CHICKEN & EGG

I noted in the last interesting issue of Cycle that Kirkpatrick Macmillan invented the bike. Naturally this poses the question, 'Who taught him to ride it?' In the same way, Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre. One must logically ask 'Who loaned him a pump to blow it up?'

George Stewart, West Dumbartonshire

OBITUARIES

DUNCAN CONNELL: 1921-2009

Died 4th March, aged 88. A lifelong CTC member and a true cyclist, he seldom used a car. As an engineer he was useful on club rides, always cobbling up a get-you-home fix. Born in Scotland, he worked in the USA then retired to Dorset. Duncan was a constant cycling companion and one of nature's gentlemen. *Roger Johnson*

EDITH CORBLE: 15/3/1912-8/1/2009

War-time service in the ATS brought Edith from Norfolk to Oxford, where she settled after demobilisation. A chance meeting with a clubrun in the Chilterns led to her joining Oxfordshire DA. For three decades she was Runs Secretary and latterly served a term as President. She was a regular at the Birthday Rides and on CTC continental tours. *Peter Johnson*

PETER HARRISON

Died aged 66 on 17/12/08 from pancreatic cancer. Peter was a CTC member for years and a keen cyclist throughout his life, from his youth in South Shields through his working life in Lincolnshire to his retirement in Richmond. He loved cycling in the Dales until his condition was diagnosed. As an engineer, he was always making ingenious alterations to his bikes. *David Harrison*

PHIL TURNER

Died on 11/1/09, aged 58, of a heart attack. He was West Sussex DA Treasurer and Bognor Chichester Group Chairman and Membership Secretary. He was tireless in leading rides and encouraging newcomers, and he edited The Spotlight magazine for Essex CTC. Phil was well known in audax circles, twice riding PBP with wife Mary, who survives him, along with their four children. *Edwin Jones*

JIM WILLIS

Died 2/11/08 aged 80. A time triallist when younger, Jim joined CTC in 1942. In 1978, he organised a mass tandem ride to celebrate CTC's centenary. He was awarded a certificate of merit that year. Jim helped organise the 1986 Birthday Rides and was publicity secretary for Coventry and Warwickshire DA. Jim and wife Janet published Frank Patterson books and also led CTC tours. *Roger Shelbourn*

OBITUARIES

PETER LEHMANN

Died in November 2008 aged 64 after a sudden illness. A CTC life member, Peter supported all things environmentally friendly. He helped open up paths in Tooting Common for cyclists. He was a great cycle-ride organiser and encouraged the children of friends to try distance riding by joining his team for the annual London-Brighton ride. This year Team Lehmann is riding in Peter's honour. *Doug Ettridge*

AGUST'N EGURROLA

The Sheffield-based Basque adventurer and author died aged 75, after a short illness. At 65, he vowed to celebrate his new bus pass by cycling or walking through all of the world's non-polar continents. He did so, always travelling with the minimum of equipment and expense, camping wild, or staying with friends he made en route. He was still planning trips in America and Europe when he died. *David Bocking*

COLIN BREWIN: 1946-2009

Died aged 62 after suffering a stroke. Colin was a member of Doncaster CTC and Chairman of the Autumn Tints Cycling Comrades. A regular Sunday Club rider, he also enjoyed the annual group holiday. He attended the Wednesday meets of the Autumn Tints and produced the runs list for the Yorkshire groups. *Meryl Oliver*

RICHARD MIALL

Died aged 50 on 30/3/09 while riding home from work. A devoted family man, keen gardener and fisherman, he cycled from an early age, initially with road clubs. He joined CTC with South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire DA, becoming treasurer for 10 years. In audax circles, he was known for his humour and for organising events like the Long Flat One with his wife Theresa. *John Radford*

LEGACIES

■ Cicely Edith George from Presteigne, Powys, passed away in October 2008 leaving a legacy of £10,000 to CTC.

Send obituaries, preferably 100 words or fewer, to the usual editorial address. As space is limited, some may not appear immediately.

50 YEARS AND COUNTING

I am writing to bring to your attention a member of the Mid Shropshire Wheelers who this year achieved 50 years of CTC membership. For all the time I have known him, Terry Egglestone has actively encouraged membership of CTC.

At present he is making an enormous contribution to the success of the cycle circuit at Shrewsbury Sports Village, which is proving popular to all ages of cyclists from racers to leisure riders.

I wondered if you might consider (over and above his CTC membership medal) some means of recognising his enormous contribution to cycling?

Tom Harper, by email

People like Terry are the reason that CTC's Certificates of Merit and Volunteer of the Year Awards exist. For information on nominations, contact CTC National Office or visit www.ctc.org.uk/volunteerawards. This year's winners are on page 12.

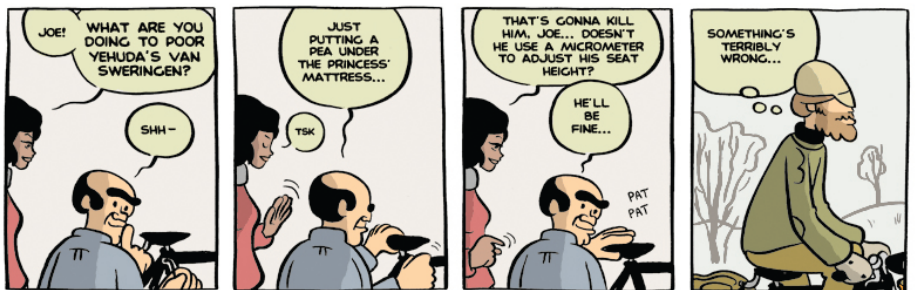
HEALTH CARD FOR TOURERS

Mark Waters' column (From the Touring Department, last issue) gave a reminder to check that your EHIC card hadn't expired. I checked and ours had, so thanks for that. However, be careful when renewing. If you type EHIC into Google you'll come across <http://www.ehic-ie.org/>. They'll let you apply online and charge you £9.95 per application. The NHS site is at <https://www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do> and it's free!

John Taylor, Bath

MAGAZINE GIVEAWAY

I have been away from cycling for about six years now due to a muscle wasting condition. I was a member from 1949 until 1995 and played an active part in running my local group. Originally this was the Northumberland & Durham DA, and later Northumbria DA. Serving as a committee member, treasurer and press and publicity secretary I certainly



Courtesy of Rick Smith

CYCLING, FRAME BY FRAME

I'd like to alert other CTC members to 'Yehudah Moon and the Kickstand Cyclery', an online comic by Rick Smith. The story centres on the two owners of the Kickstand Cyclery, Yehudah, a utilitarian cyclist who rides a sit-up and beg with overfilled pannier bags, and his friend Joe, a racing enthusiast who travels light and eschews mudguards. The yin and yang of cycling, as it were.

The storylines are cycling specific, but the beauty of the comic, is Rick Smith's effortless ability to portray the joy of cycling, with many of the three panel comics depicting the pleasure of cycling, free of the need to advance the storyline. In many ways the pace of this comic is similar to a cycling journey, often choosing the more scenic route.

This webcomic is free to read online - www.yehudamoon.com.

Ethan-Etienne Woehrling

enjoyed my time helping to run things. My wife and I helped to coordinate the 1976 Birthday Rides. Wonderful days.

I have disposed of my bikes and most of my equipment, but I found some Cycle Touring magazines from June/July 1972 to December/January 1978 and from December 1993 to December 1995. I wondered if any members would like them for just the price of postage?

Also I have the centenary edition of the Tour de France and a copy of *The Winged Wheel*, the history of CTC from 1878, but I'd have to charge for these.

Les Grey, 70 Worcester Way, Woodlands Park, Wideopen, NE13 6JD

CORRECTION

On page 68 of last issue, the KF Uphanger (£6.85) was incorrectly labelled as the Pletscher Multi Zoom, which we'd reviewed in an earlier issue. The reviewer was CTC member Brian Smith and not Cass Gilbert. Apologies for the confusion.