



Down the Road

The Cyclists'
Touring Club

Volume 2 Issue 7

East Kent DA Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2000

No Petrol? No problem!

Ever thought you couldn't do without the car? September was the time to find out by using a bike on roads made empty by the fuel crisis. Three quarters of all journeys in the UK are less than five miles long and fifty per cent are under two miles, yet more often than not we jump in the car.

Cycling is also the quickest way to travel across most towns and cities, is cheap, good for the environment and health and makes you a happier worker!

Cycling is also far safer than people imagine. In York, which has a cycle-friendly infrastructure, cycling has increased by sixteen percent, while casualties have dropped by ten per cent in the last twenty years.

Did you notice how many brand new bikes; and of course rusty relics from deep in garden sheds; were out on the roads during the fuel shortage? If you are, or you know of, one of these intrepid cycling newcomers, make sure you keep up the good work. Cycling *does* become easier with practice; besides, think of all that petrol money you'll save.

DATC Update

The national District Association Touring Competition runs from Spring to the end of October and is drawing to a close. The leading contenders, Kim Suffolk and co, are now trying to build up maximum points in the esoteric competitive events which remain.

Our own Dennis Brunwin failed to get round the longer Audax

rides so far this year, but he will probably wind up in the top thirty. Just two more Audax rides successfully completed would also qualify him for the 1000 miles Millennium Medal.

Birthday Rides - fantastic!

Peta Masey and I arrived for the start of the Birthday Rides on Sunday 6th August. We gathered a few lost souls and led them to Fordwich where we picked up the majority of riders on the route we had selected from the very wide choice offered.

Mid-morning we stopped at Yummies's cafe in Sandwich. I'd never seen so many cyclists in such a small town. As the day progressed I saw many friends who have been going to the annual Birthday Rides events for several years. Later we had a chaotic lunch at Crabble Mill and returned to Canterbury via Paddlesworth and Lord Whisky cafe.

The same sort of pattern repeated for the rest of the week; lunch stops provided by Women's Institutes. Cycling stimulates the appetite and very enjoyable meals were provided at the campsite using the school's catering facilities.

Only one day was affected by bad weather; Tuesday. Torrential rain turned roads into rivers and local riders abandoned routes and headed back to Canterbury as quickly as possible. Peta and I hammered down Stone Street on the tandem followed by a group of cyclists who trusted our lead.

The vast majority of the 1000 cyclists who participated in the

Birthday Rides week thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Peta was a little apprehensive about riding day after day, yet completed 350 miles and could still sit down by the end of the week.

Colin Weaver

www.eastkentctc.org.uk

Yep! We've been and gone and done it! The DA now has its own Internet site containing details of forthcoming rides, a collection of photographs of members and an electronic version of "Down the Road".

An electronic mailing list has also been created for members of both East & West Kent DA's. You can join the list by visiting the web site, entering your email address and completing a small form. This will allow Doug Poll and myself to let people know when the both sites have been updated. It will also provide a forum for members to discuss cycling in the county.

I am on the lookout for new materials or suggestions for the site. Please forward any interesting photos, ride reports, favourite routes, or anything that deserves a wider audience to me at 13 Debig Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9HS or email: jason.a.wood@btinternet.com

Jason Wood

CTC Cyclists Welcome

The CTC is looking to extend its national scheme of cyclist recommended cafes, tearooms and pubs. If you would like to make such a recommendation please contact me at the address shown at the foot of the page, overleaf.

Peter Horlock

Runs List

Runs Secretary: Lorna Stanley 01304 - 832492. 3 New Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4DF

DATE	MEET (map reference, time, place)	DESTINATION
8.10.00	TR332582 10.15 Yummies, Strand Street, Sandwich	TR195398 The Cat & Custard Pot, Paddlesworth
15.10.00	TR254584 10.15 Wingham Bird Park	TQ993589 The Alma, Painters Forstal
22.10.00	TR377528 10.15 The Lobster Pot, Deal	TR155661 The Share & Coulter, Greenhill
29.10.00	TR290435 10.15 Sugar & Spice, Lewisham Rd, River, Dover	TR220657 The Gate Inn, Marshside
5.11.00	TR260650 10.15 Sarre Windmill	TR236492 The Two Sawyers, Woolage Green
12.11.00	TR271536 11.00 Griffins Head, Chillenden	Annual General Meeting
19.11.00	TR145583 10.15 Julie's Café, North Lane, Canterbury	SEE LORNA! J D Wetherspoon's, Dover
26.11.00	TR377528 10.15 The Lobster Pot, Deal	TR393710 The Fayreness, Kingsgate
3.12.00	TR254584 10.15 Wingham Bird Park	TR161544 The Red Lion, Bridge
10.12.00	TR145583 10.15 Julie's Café, North Lane, Canterbury	TR266567 The Black Pig, Staple
17.12.00	TR271536 12.00 Griffins Head, Chillenden	Christmas Lunch - maximum 25
24.12.00	TR254584 10.15 Wingham Bird Park	TR255547 The Fitzwalter Arms, Goodnestone
31.12.00	TR254584 10.15 Wingham Bird Park	TR276616 The Way Out Inn, Westmarsh
7.1.01	TR254584 10.15 Wingham Bird Park	TR046558 The Rose & Crown, Stelling Minnis
14.1.01	TR145583 10.15 Julie's Café, North Lane, Canterbury	TR337562 Blue Pigeons, Worth
21.1.01	TR332582 10.15 Yummies, Strand Street, Sandwich	TR225465 The Endeavour, Wootton
28.1.01	TR377528 10.15 The Lobster Pot, Deal	TR266667 The Sun, St Nicholas at Wade

Please endeavour to be at the start by the times indicated. Runs will start prompt 15 minutes thereafter.

This Runs List was published on 27th September 2000.

If you are not a regular rider you are advised to take the sensible precaution of 'phoning the Runs Secretary to confirm that your chosen run will start as listed, just in case there has been an alteration.

Using the trains

If the start of the club run seems too far to ride, why not use the train?

Canterbury has good connections from wherever you are in the county. Julies Cafe is quite near to the West Gate tower.

Sandwich can be reached on the Canterbury East line from Snowdown station then an easy ride via Chillenden and Woodnesborough, nearly all downhill. On other lines head for Ramsgate and cycle alongside the A258, with the new cycle path, or go further on to Sandwich station by train.

Deal can be from reached from Shepherdswell station cycling through Eythorne and Great Mongeham or from Ramsgate station the line goes to both Sandwich and Deal.

Wingham can be reached from Adisham station then cycle along the B2046 or from Sandwich station cycling along the Ash by-pass.

Dover is straightforward; "Sugar & Spice" is about half a mile from Kearsney station. Or use Dover Priory station for a steady ride through the town centre, then on to the village of River.

Always confirm train times, connections and, most importantly, that there are no engineering works being undertaken as replacement buses will not take cycles. So far we have not had any trouble with space in the guards van or in the new sliding door trains. Being courteous, flexible and appreciative towards the efforts of Connex South Eastern, train staff usually finds them reciprocating the same mood, making for a very pleasant journey. Remember, don't leave *anything* valuable on an unattended bike, especially those attractive computers, lights and tyre pumps. Bungy straps have come in useful to anchor machines together.

Further contacts

Queries regarding the Runs List should be directed to Lorna at the 'phone number detailed above. Female riders can also contact Peta Masey on 01227 - 760956 who will be pleased to reassure those who may have any last nagging doubts about riding in a group.

The cycling group, SPOKES, offer very easy paced runs, ideal for family outings. Contact Sheila or Sam Webb on 01227 - 7288296 or Martin Farbrother on 01227 - 712244.

For Sale

Two members have contacted me with items for sale:

Alan Robinson has a MBK Mistral for sale, 21" frame, new computer, £50. Phone 01304 330073.

Tony Barnes is selling a F W Evans 531 ST touring frame. 24½, all braze-ons; silver/light grey finish, suitable for 700c wheels, £45. Phone 01227 262771.

Christmas Lunch

The Griffin's Head was unsurpassable when it came to the Christmas Lunch of 1999, with standards of service and food that would be really hard to find elsewhere. For these reasons, Christmas Lunch 2000 will be held here once again. Space, however, is limited and you really must book through Lorna Stanley at the 'phone number detailed at the top of this sheet. Lorna will also be able to confirm price and menu details. Be warned, if you just turn up on the day and expect to be fed you will be disappointed.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at the Griffin's Head at Chillenden on Sunday 12th November, starting at 11.30. The location is central to most riders of the East Kent DA and has proved to be a popular AGM venue in the past. All those attending will receive a light lunch when proceedings have concluded..

As a footnote and final word in this edition of our newsletter, it is with regret that I find I will not be able to continue in my present role of Secretary to the DA and editor of "Down The Road". Pressure of work, family responsibilities and other commitments mean that I will no longer have the time to devote to DA matters. I trust one of you will step forward at the AGM to fill the breach. Many thanks.

Peter Horlock