

BIRTHDAY PRESENCE

NEARLY 500 CTC members turned up for a week of cycling and social events in August at CTC's annual Birthday Rides celebration, which took place this year at Yarnfield Park near Stone in Staffordshire. Campers, caravanners and those in en-suite accommodation were all on the same site, helping reinforce to convivial atmosphere.

North Staffs Cycling group did an immense amount of work to put together a programme of rides of different distances (termed A, B, C and D), in order that there was something for everyone. Electric bike charging points were provided at Yarnfield Park so that those who can no longer storm up the climbs unaided could still take part in the rides.

The Birthday rides are justly known as the "friendly rides", said CTC Councillor Peter Brake, who attended. "You are never left on your own if you have a mechanical problem; someone will stop and give you help. And the evening entertainment was first class."

The social programme included a jazz concert, a ceilidh and a screening of Tom Allen's film, Janapar, which Tom presented. The staff at Yarnfield ran a quiz on the first night, which broke the ice. There were coach excursions for those wanting a day off the bike: one to Chatsworth House, home of the Duke of Devonshire; the other to the Potteries Museum and the Gladstone Museum.

The Birthday Cake, celebrating 135 years

of CTC, was cut by CTC Council Chairman David Cox, assisted by the oldest and youngest visitor and the person who had cycled the furthest to get to Yarnfield.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped out at the week. One of them was Cathy Surtees from Devon, attending her second Birthday Rides. "Being part of the management team gave an interesting insight into just how much effort goes into setting up Birthday Rides," she said. "It was great to see so many people that I'd met at last year's event. I cycled each day and met up with friends in the evening to hear about the routes they'd taken and the cafes they'd visited. The atmosphere was very relaxed!"



EVENTS LISTINGS NOW ONLINE

Whatever kind of cycling you prefer, go to ctc.org.uk/events for a full list of CTC events.



GLASGOW WELCOMES AGM

NEXT YEAR'S CTC AGM will take place on Saturday 10 May in Glasgow, host city for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Glasgow is a vibrant city with a host of attractions for visitors.

The venue is a short walk from Glasgow Central station and just 200 yards from the Clyde and NCR 75. Glasgow is a hub for National Cycle Routes, leading to Edinburgh, the Clyde Coast, the Highlands and the Borders.

The new Commonwealth Games facilities mean that, in addition to Sunday's programme of rides, there will be the opportunity to try out the new Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome (pictured)

and the Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Trails.

Rides on Sunday, hosted by CTC Glasgow, will include a short family ride taking in the new Glasgow Transport Museum with its historic cycle collection and the renowned Burrell Art Collection in Pollok Park. A moderate 30-mile ride goes out to Whitelees, the largest mainland windfarm in Britain. For the energetic, a 60-mile ride will go into the Trossachs national park and the edge of the Highlands.

Find out more about cycling in the Glasgow area through the CTC Glasgow website:
ctcglasgow.org.uk

New Forest fun

THIS SUMMER there were 220 visitors to CTC's New Forest Cycling Week, which is now in its 39th year. Many were family cyclists. As ever, CTC East Sussex and Chippenham Wheelers both brought big contingents.

The Avon Tyrrell base near Burley, used for the New Forest Cycling Week since 2010, was ideal. It offers easy access to the tracks and lanes of the New Forest and also provides many on-site activities.



The rally had a range of guided rides each day. Some went as far afield as the Isle of Wight. The weather was good and

the rally enjoyed its usual barbecue and bonfire on the last night.

More details online at newforestrallycc.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

› LADIES' DAY AT DALBY

Over 500 women of all ages came to Dalby Forest on 10 August to try out mountain biking and road cycling, as CTC and Dalby Bike Barn staged their first Ladies' Day. The free, guided mountain bike rides and a road ride were all well attended, as were the skills sessions. One lady hadn't been on a bike for 25 years, while others just wanted to brush up their skills. Also popular was the chance to take a close look at Santa Cruz's new Juliana women's bike range. The day was so popular that it will be an annual event. Meanwhile, there will be regular ladies' skills sessions: see the website dalbybikebarn.co.uk for dates.

› RALLYING CALL FOR LOCAL CAMPAIGNERS

CTC and Cyclenation, the UK federation of local cycle campaign groups, will hold their annual conference for local volunteer campaigners and budding campaigners, on Saturday 5 October, hosted this year by the Leeds Cycling Campaign. It will provide a chance to take inspiration from national developments in cycle policy and funding, as well as CTC's Road Justice campaign, and discuss how to maximise their potential at the local level. Then on Saturday 26 October, the Plymouth Cycling Campaign will hold what we hope will turn into a series of regional events, with similar aims. For details of both events, see ctc.org.uk/local-cycle-campaigning.

› DALBY 14 BIKE EXPO IN OCTOBER

Building on the huge success of last year's event, Dalby 14 at Dalby Bike Barn returns on 12 October, from 9.30am to 4pm. It will be a chance to see 2014 mountain bikes and road bikes, with components, kit and clothing on show from a range of manufacturers. There will also be demo bikes to try out from Scott, Santa Cruz, Lapierre and others. CTC skills taster sessions will be offered, to give you an idea of how instruction can develop your riding. There will also be some guided rides through the forest. Entry to the event is free although the forest entrance fee still applies for those arriving by car. More details at dalbybikebarn.co.uk.