



Wheelrights

the Swansea Bay cycle campaign group



Newsletter No. 21 Autumn 2012

www.wheelrights.org.uk

GOWER CYCLING FESTIVAL

15TH—22ND SEPTEMBER 2012



Riders stop at King Arthur's stone on Cefn Bryn

This is our third year of organising this Festival and it promises to be our biggest and best so far.

We have 22 led rides with the new innovation of 3 evening rides this year, see article on page 2

Visit www.gowercyclingfestival.org.uk or phone David on 01792 233755 or Nick on 01792 476178 for details.

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Copy for the next issue should be sent to *Wheelrights* Secretary (e-mail address below) by mid November.

Gower Cycling

FESTIVAL PARTY

Friday 21st September

7-11 pm at the

Gower Heritage Centre

LIVE MUSIC from

Scotty.

Jon and Jez

Bar, food: £5 on door

The SWANSEA CYCLE CHALLENGE goes on

The Cycle Challenge was a great success, see pages 3 and 4 for details;

It will be a boost for future funding possibilities if we can all carry on logging our trips and encouraging new cyclists to log on the website: www.swanseacyclechallenge.org.uk.

Nick Guy (Guest editor)

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Gower Cycling Festival



Our third Gower Cycling Festival is being given a big boost by British cycling successes in the Tour De France and Olympics, so we are preparing for greater numbers to join us.

In response to members` requests we are introducing three additional Evening Rides to cater more for people working during the day:

On Monday 17th September we have a "Folk Music Ride" starting at 5.45pm at the Railway Inn, and heading to the Loughor Boat Club for an evening of song and music! Our very own John Roach will be singing sea shanties; he is also trying to arrange Morris dancing and some sing-alongs!

On Wednesday 19th Sept, Claudine will lead us around a "Mumbles Mile" (start 5.45pm at Ribbles café). Knowing Claudine this ride may involve a stop off at a local hostelry or two!

For tandem enthusiasts there is a special "Tandem Ride" on Saturday 22nd Sept led by our very own tandem expert, Eifion Francis. If you always fancied trying a tandem this is your chance. You can either hire one (the Bike Hub on St Helen`s Rd rents them for £20 per day) or Bikeability is offering to loan a couple exclusively to *Wheelrights* Members taking part in this ride!!



These all supplement our usual mixture of rides ranging from 4 to 70 miles; the 70 miler for roadies will speed around South West Wales (again led by Claudine, so some training advised).

On Monday 17th Jan Garvey will lead a 40 mile ride to the beautiful secluded Afan Valley, stopping off at the amazing Glynccorwg Mountain Bike centre, and exploring the newly completed Sustrans cycle routes nearby.

We are very grateful to the local CTC for leading and helping with most of our rides, but could do with additional help from Cycling Marshals (please let David Naylor know if you can help).

Don't Forget our Festival Party, on the Friday evening this year, with the talented singer, songwriter, Scotty being backed up by Jon and Jez (Gower musicians); 21st Sept 7pm at the Gower Heritage Centre.

Nick Guy

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Swansea Cycle Challenge

The results are in!

We can all be very proud of the stats that have been produced during the Challenge. These include:

- 46% of participants being non-cyclists before the Challenge. National average in other challenges is 31%
- 90 organisations took part in the challenge. Only 84 took part in Cardiff.
- Participants covered 49,379 miles
- Participants burnt off 437 pounds of fat
- Participants saved over 6 tonnes of CO2
- Saving enough CO2 to cover 33 return flights from Swansea to Paris

A number of organisations took part in the challenge, ranging from Admiral and Swansea University to the Environment Agency and Countryside Council for Wales to HSBC and Fujitsu.

In the end, Admiral won the 500+ category with other winning organisations including the Environment Agency, Countryside Council for Wales, Singleton Estates and various other departments.

A number of events took place to support organisations such as try-a-bike, led bike rides and bike mechanic visits. These were incredibly successful in securing further promotion of the Challenge, Wheelrights and the Gower Cycling Festival.

As mentioned above, 46% of participants in the Challenge were non-cyclists prior to the Challenge. This is such a massive result for Swansea as the national Challenge average is 31%. This has enabled cycling to reach a new audience within workplaces and create a cycling environment within a number of businesses. Various partners will continue working with these businesses to ensure this big momentum can be continued.

We received a number of positive responses to the Challenge results from participants, some happy for completing a trip every day, to some relieved that they managed to cycle home up a big hill by the end of the Challenge. Selections of stories are below:

“After 2 weeks of what felt like endless rain, my ride in to work this morning was positively idyllic. Sweeping onto the seafront trail my ‘moment of zen’ lasted almost to the pier before I reluctantly turned around and made my way towards town”

“I am a regular cyclist but I have noticed that this challenge has had a hugely positive impact in encouraging a number of colleagues to cycle to work and in their leisure”

“Thank you Swansea Cycle Challenge, this scheme really improved my wellbeing – I’m the fittest I’ve ever been and I’m really enjoying it”

“With the Cycle Challenge being on, it allowed me to push the boundaries of what I can do and be proud of my achievements, and continue to push even after the event”

I have received countless e-mails from participants...thanking us for putting the Challenge on as it has re-energised them to get back on their bikes, realise how much fun cycling can be or how much money they save by cycling to work more often

Ceri Griffin,
CTC Business Development Officer for Wales
ceri.griffin@ctc.org.uk

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CYCLE CHALLENGE – WHEELRIGHTS RESULTS

The Swansea Cycle Challenge was a new type of campaign for *Wheelrights* which used modern methods of social marketing and behaviour change promotion.

Wheelrights can be proud of our participation, and even some of our sceptics entered into the competitive spirit. The table shows what some of our members achieved.

Hamish, Kerry and Ruth Callaway achieved brilliant results for encouraging their workplace colleagues to cycle at (respectively): Environment Agency 52%, Countryside Council 75% and University 7%. This equates to 178 cyclists out of 2,311 (with 19 new cyclists), a great achievement, Ruth!

Participant	Trips	Miles
Claudine C.	48	492
Rob W	28	231
Hamish O	26	508
David N.	20	511
Dave C.	20	167
Kerry R.	15	313

Hamish commented “We really enjoyed the Challenge, people made a real effort to get out on a bike. The competition element really helped as did the prizes. People started working together and talking and getting to know each other. Several people cycled for the first time in years. The Challenge is a brilliant incentive to get people out of their cars and onto their bikes, having fun and keeping fit.”

We have started reviewing/evaluating the Challenge with key partners (incl. CTC, Swansea Council, Welsh Govt) and learning lessons, which can hopefully inform our future campaigning.

If you have any comments or opinions about the Challenge please let me know, or send a letter to David Naylor for the next Newsletter.

Meanwhile the Challenge website will continue for a year; Please continue logging your trips, and there`s a space to describe your favourite routes for others to enjoy, by visiting:

www.swansecyclechallenge.org.uk

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Toute Allors!

Le Tour De France de *Wheelrights* wins first place!

Our motley crew of “French” cyclists attracted stares and hoots from passing motorists as we cycled from Dunvant to Penclawdd accompanied by French protest songs from the rear of Colin`s bike. A mixture of French flags and the skull and cross bones fluttered behind us.

We joined the “Festival of Tides” procession through Penclawdd to the carnival field.



David Judd joined us in full Jonny Onion regalia; A pity that his lovely French Music was drowned out by a loud street marching band in front of us!

But never daunted we were given extra inspiration by the shock appearance of Bradley Wiggins (aka Rob Wachowski) sporting his incredible sideburns – third from left in photo.

All good fun, and we were very pleasantly surprised to hear later that our *Wheelrights* Riders had won the Carnival Fancy Dress competition!

In the field our revamped Stall attracted extra attention with a quiz with superb prizes of a £30 voucher from Action Bikes, and a woman`s cycle helmet kindly donated by Schmoos. The quiz involved guessing the total distances of Cycle Routes in Swansea. You can have another try at our Stall at the Environment Centre`s Open Day on Saturday, 8th Sept.

Nick Guy

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Presumed (aka stricter) liability

This is about getting UK's liability law changed so that the stronger party involved in an accident is *presumed liable* unless there is evidence to the contrary. It has more commonly been called "stricter" liability, also "strict" and "proportionate". "presumed" is now preferred as a more accurate description.

My article "Stricter liability" in the Spring 2011 issue of this newsletter (No. 15) describes it in some detail. (The article is available on the 'Newsletters and Notes' page of our website.) My MP, Martin Caton, supports it strongly and last year proposed an early day motion (EDM) in the House of Commons. Unfortunately not enough MPs signed it and it didn't get anywhere.

In June of this year Mark Cavendish, our Olympic cyclist hopeful, was interviewed by the BBC and expressed his strong support. On the strength of this Martin set up another EDM, as follows:

Early day motion 275

WORLD CYCLE CHAMPION'S ROAD SAFETY CALL

Session: 2012-13

Date tabled: 27.06.2012

Primary sponsor: [Caton, Martin](#)

Sponsors: [Bayley, Hugh](#); [Bottomley, Peter](#); [Crockart, Mike](#); [Hopkins, Kelvin](#); [Simpson, David](#)

That this House supports the call from British cycle road race champion and Olympic gold medal prospect, Mark Cavendish, to bring UK road traffic personal injury legislation into line with most other European countries by applying the principle of stricter liability to vulnerable road victims; recognises that this means that drivers of motor vehicles that hit cyclists or pedestrians are assumed liable unless they can prove their innocence; notes that countries like Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden that apply the principle of stricter liability have much better cyclist and pedestrian safety records than in the UK; agrees with Mr Cavendish that this change should be made, not to penalise drivers, but to encourage them to be more aware of the vulnerability of cyclists and pedestrians; and urges the Government to adopt the principle of stricter liability in UK road traffic personal injury legislation.

As of the end of July just 16 MPs had signed the motion. Apart from Martin none are local. You might like to encourage your MP to sign it. The link is: www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/275.

David Naylor

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14 reasons to cycle

It is cheap;
keeps me healthy;
is environmentally benign;
permits me to earn a living;
is my lifestyle choice;
permits me to have social interact;
permits me to contribute to the community;
is a political statement;
is FUN;
permits me to meet wide range of new people;
permits me to visit lots of interesting places;
helps expand my mind;
helps reduce stress.

From a CTC Right to Ride Forum email

.LOCAL CYCLIST

An interview with Nick Davies: City and County of Swansea Councillor for Uplands Ward

Q How long have you been cycling?

Nick: For many years, as a youngster, I enjoyed riding a fast drop-handlebar roadster, but this dropped off about 20 years ago. Then about 15 years ago I started cycling again seriously, mostly for transport reasons within Swansea.

Q How often do you cycle, and why?

Nick: I cycle daily to work from the Uplands to the city centre and back. Basically I do not own a car so cycling is a quick and convenient means of transport. It also keeps me fit and enables me to build exercise into my daily routine.

Q. If you could name one issue to encourage more cycling in Swansea, what would it be?

Nick: To have more dedicated, signposted, safe cycle routes which are continuous between destinations. I think most people are put off cycling due to fear of cycling on main roads. Motorists are not aware enough of cyclists, and I have had a couple of serious near misses caused by motorists opening car doors as I approached! I also support more 20 mph zones.

Q. Do you have any plans to help cyclists in Swansea?

Nick: Yes, I am pleased that the Labour Administration have adopted *Wheelrights'* Cycling Manifesto. I am interested in getting on the Cycle Forum, and trying to get more safe cycle routes established in Swansea.

Q. What did you think of the Cycle Challenge?

Nick: I enjoyed taking part, and clocked up 69 miles. I thought it a very good idea to attract more people to take up cycling.

Q. What bike do you ride?

Nick: A Specialist Cross Trail.

[Editor`s Note: I ended by advising Nick about "Holding the lane". If any WR member would like to interview an interesting local or new cyclist , please submit it to David Naylor.]

Nick Guy

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TOP TIPS

The City and County of Swansea has put together a number of services that have an important impact on the 'Street' and public open spaces under 'Swansea Streetscene Services' brand. You can use this service to report all non emergency faults relating to cycle tracks, including rubbish, pot holes, overgrowth etc.

The information pages are at: <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=45839>.

The direct link to the Streetscene reporting tool is at: <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=49980>.

There is also a group wide email address which is Streetscene@swansea.gov.uk.

Emergency faults can be reported to 0800 132081 at any time, 24 hours, 365 days a year.

This information kindly provided by Rob Wachowski (CCS Cycling and Walking Officer).

20's Plenty seek Swansea volunteer

WANTED – 20mph Volunteer Campaign Branch Leader/Committee members for 20's Plenty for Swansea area.

I am writing to interest you in running, or contributing time to, a campaign on 20mph speed limits without road humps. The 20's Plenty for Us campaign is the UK leader and you are free to join. We have 146 Campaign groups across the country and support anyone who wants 20mph limits for their community.

Over 8 million people's authorities have agreed this life saving and quality of life raising policy. 20mph limits are recognised as Department for Transport and EU best practice for residential roads or where there are likely to be vulnerable road users. NICE also says 20mph is best practice for child protection. Portsmouth had 22% fewer casualties two years after its community wide 20mph limit implementation. Slower speeds provide the basis for active travel, lowering obesity, heart disease and stress. They save 12% of fuel, reducing pollution and climate change emissions; they smooth traffic flow and cut congestion. Noise is 40% less and road maintenance and signage lighting costs fall. Improved accessibility, help for the vulnerable and community cohesion are further quality of life gains.

We offer anyone interested in campaigning for wide area 20mph limits without humps a range of professionally branded campaign services. These are at <http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk/campaigning.htm>

Our services include things like a free local email forwarding service, a free local template website with on line petition, mailing the local press our briefings (optionally with your details for comment which raises the local profile), petitions, leaflets, stickers, posters, loan of speed guns and more including a free pack of our briefings and some stickers to get started.

We are not party political as all colours have supported 20mph limits in the past, though many of our campaign branches are run by Councillors or politically active citizens.

Do ring or email me with any questions.

If you feel unable to take this voluntary role on yourself, please would you forward it to people who might be interested and forward this request to any of your supporters or social media channels?

Thank you.

Anna Semlyen, 20's Plenty for Us Campaign Manager, T: 07572 120439
e-mail: Anna.s@20splentyforus.org.uk

www.20splentyforus.org.uk, www.20splentyforus.blogspot.com in our campaigner Yahoo group groupregister@20splentyforus.org.uk

Join our facebook group <http://tinyurl.com/20splentyonfacebook>

Follow us on Twitter [@20splentyforus](https://twitter.com/20splentyforus)

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EVENTS

(See the Events page of www.wheelrights.org.uk for possible updates.)

- 8th September, 11.00 - 15.00: Environment Centre Open Day. (*Wheelrights* have a stall.)
- 15th - 22nd September: GOWER CYCLING FESTIVAL. Official Launch at 10.30am on 15th at Ripples Café, (on Cyclepath near Mumbles) followed by three led rides. Full programme on www.gowercyclingfestival.org
- 16th September, 8 - 10am: BHF Gower Bike Ride.
- 21st September, 7 –11pm: Festival Party at Gower Heritage Centre
- 22nd October, 7.00pm: *Wheelrights* AGM in the Environment Centre, Swansea.
- November (Date tba): Formal opening of Clydach Stage 2.
- December (Date tba): *Wheelrights* Xmas Social

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Gower Cycling Festival (15-22 September 2012)

Order form

This form is for ordering **Festival Pass(es)** with payment by cheque. A Pass costs £5 for adults, free for children under 16. It entitles you to unlimited rides during the Festival. The alternative is £3 per ride, payable at the start of the ride.

Name: (Leader if more than one)

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Phone number:

E-mail:

In case of emergency contact::

Phone:

I require adult Passes at £5 and free child Passes. Please add any additional names for the passes below. Also it would help us if you would indicate which rides you are likely to join. This does not commit you.

.....
.....

I enclose a cheque payable to "Wheelrights" for £

Signed

Please return this form with your cheque to:

David Naylor (Wheelrights Secretary),
Copper Roof, 45 Pennard Road, Southgate, Swansea SA3 2AA,

Any queries phone David on: 01792 233755; or email: davidjohnnaylor@tiscali.co.uk.