CTC Coventry & CTC Rugby - Weekly Bulletin

3rd November 2021

Recently

The weather forecast for the first half of last Sunday morning which deterred some some people from booking a ride and persuaded me to cancel the long ride. However, Mike Thomas sent me this report about the intermediate ride: "*Full marks for Andy Gilbert's determination and perseverance to make his ride a success today despite the weather. His faith in the Met Office paid off with a 10-30 start when the rain stopped and the sky was painted blue so off we went somewhere north. I didn't have time to load the route into my GPS so I had no idea where we were going, and Andy had me lost many times which was great. Each time we got onto a road I was familiar with we soon turned off into the unknown down another delightful quiet narrow lane often with grass replacing the white line; that of course was when it wasn't under water. Many cakes were consumed at the Whitacre Hall Café. Thanks Andy for a great day.*"

Tuesday was a total contrast: under blue skies Mike Thomas took us from Warwick to Wellesbourne and on an innovative route through Stratford to Aston Cantlow and Wootton Wawen for lunch.

What next?

The **next Clubroom on 16th November** will start at 2000hrs at the Friends Meeting House in Hill Street, Coventry. Instead of the traditional slide show we are running a maintenance workshop with two sub-sessions swapping over halfway: one session on "tyres and punctures" and another on "chains and adjusting gears". Please email Alan, alan_jelley@outlook.com, to book a place on this maintenance session.

The **Christmas Dinner** will be held on Sunday 12th December at 1630hrs at Time for Tea near the Castle in Kenilworth. There will be some rides coordinating with the dinner - more details later. Please email Dave Hearn: davehearn56@gmail.com

Sunday's intermediate ride at the Whitacre Hall Café.

Rides this week Whatever ride you're on, please ensure that you have a set of working lights on your bike. Whilst we aim to finish our rides before lighting-up time, it is often sensible to show lights earlier in the day.

An online copy of our Rides Planning chart can now be viewed in the 'Whats On' section of the website to help you with your own planning. The quick link is: https://coventryctc.org.uk/rides-programme. It should be understood that this is a work in progress document and will be subject to continuous editing.

All Sunday rides are now starting at the War Memorial Park, Park & Ride facility at the same time - 0915hrs before going their separate ways.

Sunday 7th November

09.15hrs at WMP, Park & Ride

Terry Moles will lead a **31-mile ride** from WMP to Hilltop Farm, Hunningham. Please email Terry: 22tandn@gmail.com to join the ride and to get full details.

Sak Wathanasin will lead a **43-mile ride** from WMP to Middleton Hall. Please email Sak: sak@wathanasin.me.uk to join the ride and to get full details.

Marina Friend and Shona Hudson will lead a **22-mile women's ride** to Barston Lake. It will be a relaxing ride run in conjunction with the Breeze with a stop for a break near a beautiful lake. Please email Marina: marinafriend@hotmail.co.uk if you want to join the ride and to get full details.

Tuesday 9th November

10.15hrs Bob Tinley will lead a 30-mile ride from Farmers Fayre, Stoneleigh Park to Bishops Bowl and back. Please email Bob: Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk to join the ride and to get full details.

Tours Next Year

We are hoping that the **Mallorca Holiday**, planned for this year will be able to proceed next year. Preliminary information can be found at: http://coventryctc.org.uk/mallorca-2022-prospectus

Alan Jelley is leading a **Peak District Trails Weekend** based on Hartington Youth Hostel on the weekend of 28-29 May 2022. This tour is now fully booked.

Questionaire

Our Members Survey is still open for your contributions until November 10th.

We believe we are doing well as a club, however, we are keen to ensure there is enough choice in terms of rides, tours and social events.

Please don't pass by this opportunity to have your say about our programme this year and how it could be improved for 2022.

It's only six questions and one link away.

https://coventryctc.org.uk/2021-survey-of-members

News

Dog Lane Fishery Café, Napton

This café will be closed until March.

Binley Road Cycleway

The council has given the go ahead and work should be starting soon. You can read more about it here:

https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/86million-binley-cycle-route-gets-21944175

HS2

The latest news can be viewed here: https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-warwickshire/. Also, you can subscribe for updates at https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/

You might be interested to read about some roman statues that have been unearthed at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire: https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/oct/29/astounding-roman-statues-unearthed-at-norman-church-ruins-on-route-of-hs2

Work is moving on apace and this means there are a number of road closures you should be aware of:

Claydon Road, Lower Boddington: Claydon Road will be fully closed, 24 hours a day, from Monday 22 November to Friday 26 November, with a diversion in place. https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/hs2-works-notification-temporary-road-closure-claydon-road-near-lower-boddington/

Stoneleigh Road: from 15 November 2021 to 20 February 2022, temporary traffic lights on Stoneleigh Road. Stareton Lane will be closed from 29 November 2021 through to 17 December 2021 for 24-hours seven days a week. These works will be suspended over the festive season. https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/notice-of-traffic-management-on-stoneleigh-road-and-road-closure-of-stareton-lane/

Temporary closure on B4455 Fosse Way in Offchurch: From Friday 12 November 2021 the Fosse Way is due to be closed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until early December. https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/road-closures-for-work-on-b4455-fosse-way-in-offchurch/

We are looking out from Ludlow
Castle to Titterstone Clee Hill in
the distance.

There is no cycling connection to this week's question, but it is of local interest. What is the connection between the fairly scruffy alleyway down to the River Leam in Royal Leamington Spa and the sculpture of elephants in the town?

GPS hints - episodes 3 & 4

3. **Cycle Travel**

    1. Thank you, Carla Skinner, for sending me this contribution, "In praise of cycle.travel": You may have noticed that some of our ride leaders have been using cycle.travel recently to send out route details for upcoming club rides. I had not come across it before, so I had a look and liked what I saw.
    2. Developer-cyclist, Richard Fairclough, says, "cycle.travel is a route planner not a route plotter. If you just want to commit to map a route you already know this is probably not the best tool. However, it comes into its own in areas which you do not know well when you want to find the optimum cycling route from A to B, or compare different options for routes from A to B. And once you have a route a couple of clicks at any point on it will give you a feel for the terrain in Google Street View."
    3. The system is based upon Open Street Map (OSM) and it uses slick routing algorithms to create suitable routes using the 'bikeability' criteria embedded in OSM to optimise routes for cyclists - avoid main roads, reduce hills, etc. If a route is not coded in OSM as suitable for cycling, then cycle.travel will not route you there. For example, it will not take you through

Stoneleigh Park and it took some persuading to pick up all of the off-road section on the 100k Challenge between Newnham and Norton.

4. It is not quite like any other route planning system I know, and it takes a bit of time to learn to use it efficiently. However, it works flawlessly when you know how. It shows you clearly where a suggested optimum route includes an off-road section, but if you want tarmac all the way it will change the route to find that for you. It is especially good for planning multi-day trips - you can experiment with different overnight stops and easily see the changing day by day mileages and climbs in an elevation graph.

5. Some people might say that they prefer using an OS base map to OSM and recent upgrades have now made that possible. The routing is still done using OSM because that is the only source of 'bikeability' data, but the result can now be displayed on an appropriately scaled OS map. Unfortunately, that bit does not come free - you need to sign up as a cycle.travel supporter to get the OS base map and with that you also get French, Austrian, Spanish, and Swiss base maps (and likely more in the future) for planning trips in those countries.

6. It is a browser-based system not really suitable for use on the road. A phone app is being developed, initially only for iPhone. This may extend how cycle.travel can be used in the future but the current primary use is route planning back at base to produce various format GPS files which you can then import into your favourite route tracker.

7. Why not take a look: if you visited the site some time ago and were not too impressed then why not have another look? User experience and clever coding is continually improving the product and the site contains many new routes contributed by the cycle.travel user community.

8. Go to https://cycle.travel to review what is on offer and to https://cycle.travel/map to start planning a route.

4. Routable maps

1. Data defining digital maps is stored in many layers: e.g. main roads, minor roads, tracks and paths, land use, feature names, place names by population, and contours. Depending on the function of the map different layers may be selected in the rendition of the map. The layers displayed are also determined by the scale of the map to avoid clutter and confusion.

2. A digital map may also contain routing information to enable software to calculate a route between two points and to 'know' the category of road/path it's dealing with. When a map has this capability, it is known as "routable" – a generally available routable map is Open Street Map (OSM). An example of a non-routable map is the Ordnance Survey map, which can only display a route in straight lines linking given points. Give it enough waypoints and it will look as though the route is following a road, but it does not have the capability to know if the waypoints actually lie on a road.

3. In section 3 Carla referred to "bikeability" data associated with maps – this is an extension of the routabilty principal and determines if a route is suitable for cycling by applying greater weight to the needs of a cyclist in calculating routes.