

# History of West Kent CTC

by Martin Gill

The following comes from various sources but not directly from original West Kent records which have been sent to the local records office in Maidstone, so there may be errors.

- 1923 Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Section of the Metropolitan DA formed. At that time there were 672 CTC members living in Kent
- 1924 A DA in Kent formed from the Sevenoaks Tonbridge section of the Metropolitan DA. The first ride, to the North Pole, was held in March. The first Section was the Ordinary Section. The first Rally was held at Yalding. The first Annual Dinner was held in December.
- 1925 First Annual Rally held near Ashford.
- 1927 Area of DA expanded to cover the whole of Kent and name changed to Kent DA. Eastern section formed.
- 1928 Northern section formed
- 1929 DA magazine launched, later called Winged Words. No magazine editor - managed by the committee.
- 1930 East Kent DA formed. Name of remainder of Kent DA became West Kent DA.
- 1932 Loiterers Section formed. First 24 hour ride. First Ladies Rally. First Debating Society.
- 1933 DA Library formed - first books and later maps as well.
- 1935 Camping Section formed.
- 1936 Intermediate Section, Tandem section and Maidstone (later called Medway) Section formed. Medal Pool created. Other sections were Ordinary, Loiterers, Chatham. Orpington, Bromley.
- 1937 Saturday Afternoon Section formed. First Annual Photographic Competition (Photographic Section formed in mid '30s). *West Kent Annual Competition plus Slide Show still the only one in the CTC.*
- 1938 West Kent Road Club formed as a DA Section.
- 1939 Winged Words produced in duplicated form and given free to members of the forces.
- 1945 A political officer appointed to champion countryside preservation.
- 1946 Junior Section formed — first in the country.
- 1947 George Harrison Trophy (GHT) competition founded for Best All Rounder. Photographic sub committee formed. First Photographic Exhibition since 1940.
- 1948 Hardriders Section, Social Section and Tonbridge Section formed. Map librarian appointed.
- 1949 Bexley and District Section formed. The other Sections were the General (previously Ordinary), Loiterers, Intermediate, Tandem, Medway, Saturday Afternoon, Junior, Hardriders, Social, Tonbridge. 1555 CTC members living in West Kent. Clubroom at the White Horse, Chislehurst.
- 1950 Registrar appointed.
- 1957 Collapse of Junior and Loiterers sections.
- 1958 Publicity Officer writes to all new members sending the DA Handbook
- 1960 Tonbridge Section formed (discontinued in 1961). Wayfarers Section and 35 plus Sections formed. There were regular invitation rides.
- 1963 West Kent President Lionel Blundell QC became president of the CTC. DA committee meetings were held on Saturday afternoons and took over 6½ hours.
- 1970 Weekdays Section formed.
- 1974 The Sections were the Juniors (reformed in early 70's), Loiterers, Saturday Afternoon, Sunday am and Hardriders, Veterans (previously 35 plus), Medway. The Blind Tandem Section functioned as a sub section of the Saturday Afternoon Section. (*What happened to the wayfarers and Weekdays and when were they reformed and what happened to Bexley & District?*) The Librarian and Sales Officer was made into a single post.
- 1975 First evening DA Committee meeting.
- 1976 Junior Section disbanded. It was revived briefly in the 90's but wasn't viable in the current climate (protection of minors etc)
- 1979 Sunday am section became the Sunday Family Section.
- 1980 Weald Section formed. The Hardriders changed their name to the Intermediate Section.
- 1982 Gravesend and Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells sections formed.
- 1983 The Beginners Section (*formed when?*) became the Bexleyheath Section.
- 1984 The Rochester Section and Sevenoaks Sections formed. The Intermediate Section reverted to being the Hardriders Section. Swale Group formed but never took off.
- 1985 Clubroom moved to Lamorbey Residents Pavilion Sidcup. (In the 50s as well as the Thursday clubroom at the White Horse, Chislehurst there was a summer Tuesday clubroom on the A 20 known as the Arterial Clubroom. Then there was a clubroom in the Montrose Club, Hurst Road, Sidcup followed by another address in Hurst Road and two church halls in Bexley).
- 1987 Sittingbourne Section formed.
- 1989 Wayfarers Section replaced by the Sunday All Day Section.
- 1990 Newcomers Group formed.
- 1991 Orpington Section formed.
- 1992 24 hours Tourist Reliability Trial became the 400km event.
- 1994 Intermediates Section formed. Softees Section and Mountain Bike Group formed (each disbanded about one year later).
- 1995 Rochester Section became the Medway Towns Section. Roughstuff Section operated throughout the year and then disbanded
- 1996 Maidstone Easy Riders formed and disbanded the following year.
- 1999 Sunday Family Section became the Moderate Section. Rochester All Terrain Group operated briefly.

- 2000 Offroad Section formed but disbanded next year. Sittingbourne Section ceased to operate.
- 2003 Newcomers Group disbanded.
- 2004 Sittingbourne Section relaunched.
- 2007 West Kent ceased to be a District Association.
- 2008 WKDA formally changed its name to West Kent CTC and all Sections become Informal Groups.
- 2009 Weald group disbanded.