



Welcome to our first eNewsletter now to be found on the website.



For the Diary

Sunday 13th December

Christmas Sing Song

12.00 onwards at

Fox & Hounds,

Romney Street

Deadline for Medal Claim

Thursday 17th December

Christmas Drinks, Clubroom



At the recent AGM it was good to see how keen everyone was to keep WK CTC magazine *Winged Words*, now in its 80th year, and also an online newsletter. At a time when electronic communication is becoming the most popular means, it was clear there is a place for both. I am taking on the job of Editor, alongside a great team of other members keen to share the news with you all. Ultimately these publications are the mouthpiece of the club, so tell us what you want and keep sending in the contributions! *Chrissa Woodhouse.*

Note from Martin Gill

You may have noticed that in my 'from the WK Secretary' piece in Dec/Jan Winged Words I said that a survey questionnaire would be sent out as an insert, but

that did not happen. The survey form has now been posted on the Members Area of the WK website. Please complete it and return it to me by one of the following methods:

- *using the MS Word version and emailing it;*
- *printing the pdf version, scanning and emailing or posting it;*
- *handing the completed form to John Tobin at one of the winter social events or to your group secretary.*

So **Winged Words** enters its 81st year and let's make it a good one. In Feb/March an update on AGM matters, results of the Hill Climb, how you survived Christmas, unwanted presents, and much more! Send subscriptions to [Richard Bush](mailto:Richard.Bush@wkdawingedwords@yahoo.co.uk) or email him for more information; contributions, as usual, to wkdawingedwords@yahoo.co.uk.

Reg Oakley outlined the views of the **Sevenoaks Cycling Strategy** at the AGM. In the [Sevenoaks Chronicle](#) of 19/11 he is seen presenting the response to the Transport Strategy to the Council. You can see the document in the [Sevenoaks area of the website](#). Not only does it outline practical proposals for cycling development, it tells Sevenoaks District Council that cycling is here to stay.

A sad reflection of road cycling in the [national press](#) this week as Department for Transport figures show a rise in the number of cyclists injured. Cycling in [numbers](#) seems to be the solution though.



Vote for SPOTY

On Sunday 13 December you can vote for **Mark Cavendish** on Sports Personality of the Year. See why [here](#).

East Sussex Bridge closure, November / December 2009

The Forest Way is temporarily closed east of Hartfield, between Hartfield and Balls Green, due to an unsafe bridge. There is an alternative footpath route for walkers, shown on maps at the site, but not for cyclists.

 **Old Mill Tea Rooms** at the Mill Yard Craft Centre, **West Malling** are now open on Sundays from 10 - 4.

All I Want For Christmas....

If you are short of ideas for your Christmas list, or gift ideas for your cycling partners, family and friends, forget the fancy chocolates, toiletries and knitwear. Show you really care and consider these:

- * [warm clothing](#)
- * [cycle books](#)
- * take a Xmas cycling break with [CTC, Christmas in York](#) , [New Year in Hampshire](#)



Train Assisted?
Don't forget train timetables change 13 December.



GOOGLING

Fun retro viewing at this [youtube](#) clip. Future fitness [here](#).



No room for young cyclists on town roads

Amy Andrewreporters@sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

426 words

19 November 2009

[Sevenoaks Chronicle](#)

SEVCHR

default

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English

(c) 2009 Sevenoaks Chronicle

Children out riding bikes in Sevenoaks are an endangered species, says the town's Cycle Forum.

The group, who criticised Kent County Council for their lack of decisive action on bikes, have set themselves a long-term plan - two wheels good, four wheels bad.

Members pedalled their beliefs by cycling to the Sevenoaks District Council office in Argyle Road to hand over their response in person to district councillors.

"Because of a lack of real local input from Sevenoaks this document fails to reflect the specific needs and character of the district," it says.

"Cycling is treated more as an afterthought than as a mainstream mode of transport and a potential solution to congestion and pollution."

Reg Oakley, who heads the forum, said he did not believe Sevenoaks District Council or the county council had offered any commitment to a cycle plan for the area as part of the transport strategy.

He said: "We are lagging behind all other districts in Kent and are the only place without a cycling plan.

"This is our opportunity to set out future improvements for cycling in the area because we are missing out on all kinds of funding we could be getting."

Jess Shepherd-Barron, a governor of The New Beacon School said: "We are trying to teach the children about using their bikes but it is very difficult for them to put it into practice in Sevenoaks. Cycle facilities really need to be improved."

Kent Velo Girls bike club member Jo Walczak blamed the attitude of many drivers for the dangerous cycling conditions.

"Drivers are always very good with people riding horses and are careful going past them, but they don't seem to have the same care towards cyclists at all. I just think they aren't used to seeing bikes on the road."

One of the top priorities for Cycle Forum member John Morrison is to cut down on driving speeds.

He called some speed-calming measures in the town "laughable", explaining they made conditions almost impossible for safe cycling.

"I completely understand why parents don't want their children to ride their bikes around Sevenoaks," he said. "Adult cyclists are vulnerable in Sevenoaks, let alone children."

West Kent Cyclists Touring Club member Martin Gill admitted: "There is a noticeable difference between Sevenoaks and other areas in Kent in terms of cyclist numbers and facilities. Our first priority is to encourage people to use their bikes to commute to the station."

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Christmas Book Suggestions



The Beautiful Machine: A Life in Cycling, from Tour De France to Cinder Hill, Graeme Fife (Mainstream Publishing, 1 May 2008)

Tour De France: The History, The Legend, The Riders, Graeme Fife (Mainstream Publishing, 5 Nov 2009)

Massif: Guide to the Great Road Climbs of the Pyrenees Graeme Fife (Rapha Racing Ltd, 28 Feb 2008)

Tour Climbs: The Complete Guide to Every Mountain Stage on the Tour De France, Chris Sidwells (Collins, 28 May 2009)

Chris Hoy: the Autobiography, Chris Hoy (Harpersport, 15 Oct 2009)

Cycling Home from Siberia, Rob Lilwall (Hodder & Stoughton, 20 Aug 2009)

The Man Who Cycled the World, Mark Beaumont (Bantam Press, 22 May 2009)

Lance Armstrong: The World's Greatest Champion, John Wilcockson (John Murray, 9 Jul 2009)

My Comeback: Up Close and Personal, Lance Armstrong and Elizabeth Kreutz (Yellow Jersey Press, 3 Dec 2009)

Two Wheels: Thoughts from the Bike Lane, Matt Seaton (Guardian Books, 2 July 2009)

Cycling Britain (Lonely Planet Cycling Guide), Etain O'Carroll (Lonely Planet, 1 Jul 2009)

Cycling in the UK: The official guide to the National Cycle Network, Sustrans (AA Publishing, 31 October 2009)

Cycling in Sussex: Off Road Trails and Quiet Lanes, Deirdre Huston & Marina Bullivant (Vertebrate Graphics Ltd, 1 May 2008)

Tour de Kent: the day the world's biggest bike race came to the garden of England, Fred Atkins (Breedon Publishing, 5 June 2009)

**Books by
local author,
Graeme Fife**



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