



SUNSHINE

Enjoy some sun with [Tour Down Under](#) highlights. And more photos [here](#). **WATCH IT**

More sun guaranteed at the 2010 [Tour of Qatar](#) (7-12 Feb), which you can watch at lunchtime on 8, 10, 11, 12 Feb on British Eurosport, including [Bradley Wiggins' debut](#) for Team Sky.



A January record of 2,900 potholes have been reported to CTC's www.fillthathole.org.uk.



PUDDLES, POTHoles AND DOWNPOURS

While drivers are politely warned about 'wobbly' cyclists in [Lancashire](#), the [Sevenoaks Chronicle](#) reports on the mess of local roads and the Guardian Bike Blog looks seriously at the matter of [mudguards](#).



RE-CYCLE

Left are Haitian students with bikes provided by a Canadian charity, [Cyclo Nord Sud](#) who collect used bikes and send them South. They say each year the 600,000 bikes sold in Quebec with a potential 20-year lifespan are used for an average 5.5.

With a market unable to reabsorb them all, they **recycle**. Closer to home [Re-Cycle](#) in the UK provide transport and a new life to many Africans by shipping unwanted bikes, parts and cycle know-how. [Here's](#) 7-year-old Charlie Simpson who raised over £70,000 for survivors of the Haiti earthquake on his bike - he found it "quite tiring".

CYCLE LONDON

Interest in cycling London is growing, from the [Mayor's targets](#) for cycle journeys and bike hire, to [concerns for safety](#) and [highway code](#), to plans for a [mile-long cycle path](#) as a legacy of 2012. Meanwhile, news on the [A2 Cycle Park](#) looks exciting, although awaiting decisions on funding.

WHY MORE DON'T CYCLE

In this in-depth [article](#) on the subject of fear of cycling, sociologist Dave Horton examines people's perceptions of the activity and the problems facing the task of increasing take-up. In [this short film](#), a clear picture emerges of the attitudes of teenagers and issues they have with cycling. The girls' visit to Bremen introduces them to a whole new world. I think they use the word: "**liberating**".

BIKE THEFT

Last Sunday I had a five-minute lecture from a local in Tonbridge about letting my bike out of my sight. It prompts me to include this [unfortunate story](#). You can log any theft you know of on the Facebook Group.



OOGLING SILLY

'Clip in; clip off' with Lee Evans.



MAINTENANCE

Tackle bike maintenance with two courses organized by [Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council](#) to be held at Cycle Ops, Tonbridge. **Puncture Repair Master-Class** will take place 11/2 and 11/3, 6.30-8.30; **Bike Check Workshop** on 18/2 and 18/3, 6.30-8.30. Alternatively, get to grips with a variety of other bike maintenance issues with BicycleTutorial.com.

ART AND THE BIKE
Wood Bike by German technology student, Jens Eichler.



HAITI DEVASTATION



| For the Diary | |
|---|---|
| Sunday, 31 st January | Gravesend Charity Reliability Ride |
| Friday, 5 th - Monday 8 th February | Winter Weekend Truleigh Hill YH Organiser: Steve Dyer |
| Sunday, 7 th February | Old Portlians Reliability Ride Halstead LCC Ride 'Hawksmoor' Waterloo Station |
| Thursday, 18 th February | Book Swap Evening Clubroom 20.30 |
| Saturday, 6 th March | Photographic Exhibition and Slide Show |

GRAVESEND C.C. AND C.T.C. CHARITY RELIABILITY TRIAL
SUNDAY 31st JANUARY 2010
START ANY TIME BETWEEN 09.30 AND 10.00
ENTRANCE FEE £2.00 UNDER 14 £0.00
ALL MONIES FROM THESE EVENTS WILL BE DONATED TO
KENT AIR AMBULANCE

49 MILES

Exit Shorne Country Park, left via Shorne Ridgeway to cross A226, Upper Higham. Proceed via Villa Road and School Lane to Lower Higham. Right over railway, right into Lower Rochester Road and Gore Green Road to Buckland Road. Left to Buttway Lane, Cliffe. Right to St. Helen's Church, left on B2000 and right on Reed Street and Common Lane to Cooling Road. Left on Cooling Road to High Halstow. Proceed through village to A228. Left on A228 and Ratcliffe Highway to Allhallows (14.5 miles). Right into Stoke Road to Lower Stoke. Left in village to join A228. Right on A228, left via Upper Stoke to Hoo St. Werburgh, proceed through village to A228 to Chattenden. Left on A228 and left on Four Elms Hill into Upchat Road. Right to roundabout. First exit, Woodfield Way. Right at T junction into Lee Green Road and Haven Street to B2000. Left on B2000 and right via Dillywood Lane to A226 (26.3). Right to Gads Hill. Left into Pear Tree Lane, The Ridgeway, past the start area, to cross the A2 and proceed to Cobham Memorial. Right, through the village, left at Owletts, through Sole Street to A227. Left on A227 to Vigo (36 miles). Right via Fairseat and Stanstead Hill to Stanstead. Right on Malt House Road, right and left at Berry's Maple. Proceed on Hartley Bottom Road to Longfield Hill. Right on B260 to Meopham. Left on A227 and right at Camer Corner. Retrace the outer route to finish at Shorne Country Park..... where certificates will be issued.

29 MILES

Follow the above course, but finish at Shorne Country Park on the return.

21 MILES

Follow the above course to High Halstow. Right on Christmas Lane to A228 roundabout. Take second exit into Sharnal Street. Follow the 'cycle route' to Four Elms Hill. Proceed as the 49 mile route to finish at Shorne Country Park.

Car Parking at Shorne Country Park costs £2.00.
Organiser:- Ian Stone, 11 Tennyson Avenue, Cliffe Woods, Rochester, ME3 8JF.
Tel. 01634 220281. e-mail dorianstone@btopenworld.com

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**WEST KENT
CTC**



68th PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

**Judge - Roger Force FRPS
(Dartford Camera Club)**

plus slide presentation

“Over My Handlebars”

by

Martin Lloyd

A light-hearted look at cycling experiences, travels etc over the years, or in his words, “Slides that I should have thrown out!”

Saturday 6th March 2010

**Methodist Church Hall, Otford (near Sevenoaks)
includes display of members' Arts and Crafts**

Doors open 5.30pm - Presentation 7pm

Tickets from: Peter Scott 01474 833123

or from any West Kent CTC Group Contact

Price £4.50 in advance or £5 on the door

Refreshments available - ample parking and dry cycle storage

www.westkentctc.org.uk

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SEVENOAKS CHRONICLE

14 January 2010

Motorists have slammed the state of roads around the Sevenoaks area, claiming potholes are damaging their cars causing hundreds of pounds of repairs.

Particularly deep holes in the road have formed on major thoroughfares through the town, including the Bat and Ball junction, London Road, near to the station, and Tonbridge Road.

Pedestrians are also tumbling in the craters.

Keith Richardson, of Weald Road, Sevenoaks, said he had to change two wheels and two tyres on his wife's three-year-old Vauxhall Signum as a result of potholes on the roads.

He said: "Everyone is concerned about this - we have roads like a third world country.

"It's generally all around Sevenoaks. The state of the roads is pretty poor."

Jack Crompton, who works at Weald Garage, in Sevenoaks Weald, hurt himself when he fell over a hole at the crossroads of Windmill Road and Glebe Road.

He said: "I fell over a pothole when I was walking the dog a few days ago. It happened just after that last patch of snow. The potholes are terrible. It's the salt that killed the road."

Chairman of Riverhead Parish Council, Mike Massey, said he was concerned about the impact of the recent icy conditions on potholes already existing in his village, notably in Marlborough Crescent and Hamlin Road.

He said: "Before we had the first lot of snow we had been badgering Kent Highway Services to do something about potholes. "The usual answer is 'It's not bad enough yet'. "But now the frost and ice will get into the fairly shallow potholes and expand. It will make them worse."

Kent county councillor for central Sevenoaks, John London, said he regularly reported the potholes he sees in the road, and the highways organisation could be relied upon to repair the dangerous ones within 24 hours.

But he added it took longer to fix the ones that had the potential to get bigger.

He said: "My most recent complaint was on the borders of Riverhead and Dunton Green, outside Whitmore's Garage.

"I think it has got a little worse in the past month. I have been down to see whether it has been done, but I think the snow will slow everything up."

Head of community operations for Kent Highway Services, Kim Hills, said more funding was available this financial year to spend on potholes and major patching than last year. An additional 15 crews had been put on duty.

She added: "Unfortunately, the very wet November followed by the very cold December - and then snow over Christmas - has caused many potholes to appear earlier than normal.

"The snow and ice we are currently experiencing will undoubtedly result in more frost damage in the coming weeks."

The public can report potholes online at www.kent.gov.uk/highways or by calling 08458 247 800.

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CYCLIST'S BIKE LEFT AS A 'SKELETON' BY THIEVES

Kent & Sussex Courier

8 January 2010

A Hildenborough cyclist had a "devastating" start to 2010 after her bike was stripped of parts over the New Year. Eva Charrington is now warning other cyclists to be aware of "dodgy" areas where bikes could go missing - and has set up a Facebook group to spread her message.

The 44-year-old, of Mill Lane, cycled into Tonbridge on New Year's Eve, and locked her bike, called Mildred, in a rack at the Angel Centre. When she returned later she could not unlock it and, thinking the lock was frozen, tried loosening it with WD40. When this failed she was "forced" to leave it and take the train home.

She had data-tagged her bike and marked it with UV ink after having another bike stolen outside Sainsbury's a few years ago.

Her brother, Mark, went to collect Mildred the next day and discovered the tyres, handlebars and gears had been stolen, leaving a "skeleton".

The office worker, who has been cycling for 20 years, said: "I couldn't really believe it. I thought, how low can some people get?"

"New Year's Eve is when everybody's inside, in the pub or at home with their families, but the thieves are out causing hassle."

Ms Charrington's insurance company is now paying for a new bike, but she thinks there should be more security cameras covering cycle racks.

"We do need to have more CCTV over bikes," she added.

She has since set up the West Kent Bike Thefts Facebook group, which she hopes cyclists can use to share information.

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