

Stourton Caundle Cycle Group– Parish Council Annual Report – 2019

Prepared by Tom Eden and Richard Miles

Our village cycle group is known as “Caundle Vélo Club” (CVC) and is now into its 8th year, continuing to attract new members from Stourton Caundle, supported by towns and villages in our catchment area. Membership is now 23 and the two founders, Tom Eden and Richard Miles, are joined by three more villagers: David Keenan, Mike Taylor, and recent newcomer, Joe Edwards.

Our regular activities involve, as in prior years, two rides each week throughout the year on Mondays and Fridays, usually starting from outside The Trooper Inn at 9am. Everyone rendezvous there for a briefing - other members living outside the village arrive by car or cycle to the start. The all-day Monday rides average 50 miles in autumn and winter and 70 miles in spring and summer, sometimes stretching further afield in fine weather, and always following pre-planned routes with a coffee pause and pub lunch break, returning by mid-afternoon. The route direction varies each week throughout the year on the four compass points around Stourton Caundle, with some starting points beyond the village using “car assists” to explore new terrain. Last year, we managed 52 consecutive Monday rides without a single weather cancellation, with the ride leader covering 3,036 miles - despite several soakings in January and October, and a freeze in February. The unstructured Friday rides are always to a local café, averaging 30-40 miles with a return for lunch by 1pm. In 2018, the lead rider on Fridays chalked up 1,668 miles.

Members of the Caundle Vélo Club are insured as a group for Third Party liability with *Cycling UK*. Rides generally comprise a “peloton” varying from 4–12 cyclists on the day, with some of those living outside the village joining us at strategic points along the route. A revised set of Guidance Notes for Riders was issued to members on 1st February, and a copy has been lodged on the Cycling Club webpage. Safety for ourselves and all other road users remains the paramount club rule, with all of us wearing helmets and high visibility clothing and sporting rear flashing lights. There is also a CVC “branded” cycle top designed around the flag colours of Dorset and Somerset.

Last year we roamed from the New Forest to the Pewsey Valley and from Weston-super-Mare to Lymington. In September some of us rode to witness the annual “Tour of Britain” cycle race climbing Cheddar Gorge. We also enjoyed a group picnic lunch outing on the beach at Ringstead Bay in August, and a private tour and lunch at the Hall & Woodhouse brewery in Blandford last October. To round off the year our annual Christmas Lunch with partners was held at the Grange, Osborne on December 4.

16th February 2019