

Stourton Caundle Cycle Group– Parish Council Annual Report – 2020

There are five village members of “**Caundle Vélo Club**” (CVC) - Tom Eden, Richard Miles, David Keenan, Mike Taylor and Joe Edwards. Another 18 live in neighbouring towns and villages, some of them joining us outside The Trooper for the “off” at 9am every Monday and Friday all year round. Most of us are retired but we do have a sprinkling of younger members, and our children and their friends from time to time. The routes for each ride within Wessex go in every direction, and in summer there are occasional “car assist” starts outside the catchment area in order to explore new terrain. Depending on weather and season, CVC’s bicycle rides average 50-70 miles on Mondays, and 30-40 miles on Friday mornings.

Beyond the sheer enjoyment of cycling around Dorset, Somerset, Hampshire, East Devon and South Wiltshire, our safety and security remains the primary goal, as well as consideration for all other road users. Caundlers may have glimpsed a kaleidoscope of bright yellow, orange, blue and purple as we flash through the village trying hard to maintain single file so that cars can overtake the peloton. The Highway Code states that it is perfectly legal for cyclists to ride two-a-breast, so you may have seen us taking advantage of this in order to keep up the all-important mobile chit-chat. However, the Code also states that cyclists must “*ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends*”. We are conscious of this responsibility to other road users, but the trouble is that almost all our roads and lanes are either narrow or busy, and often both. If we appear at times to be riding towards the middle of the road, rather than hugging the ditch, it’s to avoid yawning potholes, collapsed edges or loose drain covers. Our ageing bones being increasingly brittle are threatened by easily upended bicycles - either from lack of concentration on the part of the rider, or by a plethora of hidden obstructions. We live in trepidation of deer, rabbits, squirrels, pheasants, stray dogs, even feral cats dashing unseen out of the hedges in front of us – particularly on a fast descent. So we cyclists beg your indulgence if we sometimes appear over cautious or even cavalier of manner.

CVC is open to all Stourton Caundlers, or those from nearby towns and villages, at a modest membership cost of £10 per annum, which covers our liability against third party insurance claims. We organise occasional social events built around bicycle rides, as well as an annual Xmas Lunch for members and partners.

<http://www.stourtoncaundle.org.uk/cycle.htm>

Contacts: Tom Eden, Sunray Cottage – 364447 or Richard Miles, Grange Cottage – 364651

***Submitted by Tom Eden
March 13, 2020***