# VENTNEWS

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CTC NATIONAL EVENTS IN 2008**

17-18 May: Heart Of England Rally Location: Meriden. Contact: John Bennett, 0121 459 9319, www.ctcsouthernwheelers.co.uk. Weekend discovering Warwickshire lanes, social events, village hall lunch and Cyclists' Memorial service.

21-22 June: York Cycle Show Location: York. Organiser: John Taylorson, 07765 070120, www. yorkcycleshow.co.uk. CTC's National Rally, featuring retail show, rides for all abilities, displays, camping and events and exhibitions for all.

24-28 July: Welsh Festival of Cycling Location: Rhyadaer. Organiser: Emrys Jones, 01952 257522, www. cyclefestwales.org.uk. Experience the beauty of rural Powys with events for cyclists of all abilities.

2-9 August: CTC Birthday Rides Location: Moreton in Marsh. Organiser: CTC Holidays & Tours, www.cyclingholidays.org. Top class accommodation or camping in glorious Gloucestershire. Audax, touring and social events for all ages and abilities, and the annual CTC Birthday Tea.

#### Series/Year-long events

March-October: CTC Tourists Trophy Location: 400+ events nationally. Organiser: Bob Kynaston, 0208 950 2082, www.ctc-competitions.org. uk. Qualify for the Season Long competition by mixing 12 events from events covering all aspects of riding from 50km to overnight rides of 600km. A variety of fun events are also included, as are off-road routes.

March-October: CTC Mille Miglia Location: Nationwide. Organiser: Bob Kynaston, 0208 950 2082, www. ctc-competitions.org.uk. Engraved Gold, Silver and Bronze medallions for completing 3000, 2000, 1000km in CTC Tourists' Trophy events.

May, June, August (dates TBC): CTC Challenge Rides David Duffield ride from Corsham, Ron Kitching ride from York, Phil & Friends from Sheffield. See www.ctc. org.uk/challengerides. CTC sportive challenges from 35km to 150km raising funds for CTC Charitable

All year: British Cycle Quest Location: 402 locations nationwide. Organiser: Mark Waters (01483 238305) and Peter Jackson, www. ctc-competitions.org.uk. Devise your own routes between predefined locations to answer 402 questions across the UK. Awards are available for visiting, 50, 100, 200, 300 and all 402 sites.

## **AGM in N Ireland**

TC members in Northern Ireland and ✓ National Office staff have put together a great programme for our 2008 National AGM and Dinner, which features some of Belfast's most significant buildings and a cycling programme for all. The celebrations will mark a dual anniversary: CTC Belfast's 80th year and CTC's 130th.

On Saturday 26th April the AGM will be held in the Baby Grand room of the superbly restored Belfast Grand Opera House in the city centre, followed by an evening dinner in the prestigious Long Gallery of Stormont Parliament Buildings, home of the Northern Ireland Assembly where we will be hosted by an Assembly Minister.

On Sunday there will be a programme of rides for all abilities in and around Belfast led by CTC Northern Ireland, featuring city sights and surrounding countryside. The following week CTC Cycling Holidays and Tours, our own travel organisation, is providing an easy paced tour featuring stunning scenery of County Antrim's incomparable Coast Road, some of the Nine Glens of Antrim, bird-paradise Rathlin Island, the Giant's Causeway, the oldest distillery in the world at Bushmills, the wild scenery and thatched cottages of County Donegal, and a circuit of Malin Head, Ireland's northern headland. Shorter versions are available for those with less time.

More information on the CTC web site at page www.ctc.org.uk/agm including links to accommodation and travel sites. Bookings for the dinner will be taken from January but expressions



of interest can be sent to national office to be notified when bookings open.

Motions for the AGM should be sent to the Director at National Office by 1st February 2008. Advice on setting out wording and content can be given by the Director or your National Councillor. All motions must be accompanied by signatures of a proposer and seconder who must be current members.

For advice on getting to Northern Ireland with your bike, see the 'Ticket to ride' article on p36.

### Birthday Rides back on

fter a gap of a year, CTC's Birthday Rides are back. The Birthday Rides are a cross between cycle touring and a family summer holiday, and in 2008 this week-long festival is coming

to Moreton-in-Marsh in the heart of the Cotswolds.

National Councillor Norman Hayes, who chairs CTC's national events committee, said 'This really is an exceptional venue which meets all our



expectations, and the cycling in the area is great. CTC Council knows how important the Birthday Rides are to many members, I am delighted with the real team effort from all involved to get 2008 back on the road.'

The event will be situation at the Fire Service College one mile from the town centre. The college has a variety of accommodation, with en suite bedrooms as well as camping facilities. More information about the college and facilities can be found at http://www. fireservicecollege.ac.uk/.

Bookings will be taken from January onwards. More details next issue, and at: www.ctc. org.uk/birthdayrides.