



## CTC Cotswolds Birthday Rides 2 - 9 August 2008

Based at the National Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh, this year's Birthday Rides take place in the Cotswolds' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Evenlode Valley and the Vale of Evesham, and provide terrain suitable for all ages and all cycling abilities, both on and off-road.

The rides will provide opportunities to discover idyllic honey-coloured villages, breathtaking scenery, quiet lanes and wandering brooks. Visit ancient Neolithic monuments, medieval wool churches, Roman remains and grand abbeys. Enjoy the surrounding attractions of castles, rare breeds farms, falconry centres, nationally renowned gardens, National Trust Properties and steam railways. Soak up the ale at independent breweries or visit the surrounding towns such as Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, collegiate Oxford with its dreaming spires, Georgian Cheltenham with its elegant buildings or medieval Tewkesbury with its abbey.

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- Sat 2 Aug Arrive anytime from 2pm onwards. Register and collect your Birthday Rides Handbook containing full details of the week's rides and events. Browse through the information supplied by the Cotswolds Tourist Information Office and watch their video presentation. In the evening meet up with new and old friends in the bar for drinks.
- Sun 3 Aug Choice of day rides northeast to Warwickshire and Edge Hill  
Evening entertainment
- Mon 4 Aug Choice of day rides south to Bourton on the Water and the Cotswolds, plus Audax events  
Optional day coach trip: 'Tour of the Cotswolds and Shakespeare's Stratford'  
Evening entertainment: 'Splash Night' for under 16s in the College's swimming pool plus other entertainment
- Tues 5 Aug Four Shires Rides (30/50 miles) taking in the counties of Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire, plus Children's Cycling Olympics and parade, all meeting up at Sezincote House & Garden from 1pm for the Birthday Tea.  
Evening entertainment
- Wed 6 Aug Choice of day rides in Oxfordshire and Audax events  
Optional day coach trip: Blenheim Palace & Gardens  
Evening entertainment  
Optional evening coach trip: Hook Norton Brewery
- Thurs 7 Aug Choice of day rides to the southeast including Bishop's Cleeve, Tewkesbury and Snowhill  
Optional day coach trip: 'Abbeys and Cathedrals'  
Evening entertainment
- Fri 8 Aug Choice of day rides to Warwickshire and Stratford and Audax events  
Optional day coach trip: 'Glorious Gardens'  
Evening entertainment: Final Fling Ceiledh. Mini Tourist Competition prize-giving.
- Sat 9 Aug Everyone must be off site by 11am; rooms to be vacated no later than 10am.



Some rides and events may need to be re-arranged for reasons of weather and availability of facilities, but will take place some time during the week. All indoor evening entertainments take place in limited space, so may not be able to accommodate everyone who wants to participate. Some may be repeated.



## ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

There are two 'packages' available for the week – one for camping and one for rooms in the college. Both include your registration fees, a handbook and route sheets for all the rides, entry to all on-site evening entertainments, the Audax events, the Mini Touring Competition for under 16s and the Birthday Tea, plus accommodation and meals as described below. The optional coach trips are extra.

**College rooms** are located in the recently built (2005) wing of the college, these are comfortable 3\* hotel-standard ensuite twin or double-bedded rooms with tea/coffee-making facilities and TV. Couples will be allocated a double-bedded room unless

indicated otherwise under special requests on the Booking Form. Single rooms are not available, but anyone booking individually will be paired with someone of the same sex in a twin room, subject to availability. Four rooms are available for disabled persons, two with wet bathroom, two with hoist bath. The college is fully compliant with disability legislation and all of the main facilities are easily accessible by wheelchair. Linen and towels are provided. Please contact the Co-ordinator for prices for under 16s.



Meals are on a half board basis and are taken in the self-service restaurant. The cooked breakfast will be served from 7:30am - 9am and the evening meal from 5pm - 7pm. The evening meal consists of a choice of three main dishes, including a vegetarian option, a choice of desserts and tea/coffee. If you have any special dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian, diabetic or gluten/wheat free meals (for which there is no additional charge), please indicate these under special requests on the Booking Form.

**Camping pitches** are located on a flat field in the College grounds and campers will use the sports hall showers as well as some showers located in the old accommodation block. There are several toilet blocks around the main buildings, and portaloos will be provided for overnight use. Bowsers will provide water, and skips are provided for waste. There is no lighting on the campsite and no electric hook-ups for caravans. Breakfasts in the self-service restaurant are included in the price, although it is possible to pay a supplement and have evening meals instead. In addition, an evening meal package for the week can be purchased separately. No refund will be given for any meals not taken.

Pitches come in two sizes:

- **small** for 1 small backpacker-type tent for 1 or 2 people
- **standard** for 2 small backpacker-type tents **or** 1 large tent **or** 1 motorhome, caravan or campervan, including an awning, for up to 4 adults or 2 adults and up to 4 under 16s

Motorhomes, campervans and cars parked next to caravans or tents **may not be moved** during the week; if you wish to use your car, it must be left in the car park once you have set up camp.

Members of groups who wish to camp near each other must book at the same time and indicate clearly the name of their group, though adjacent pitches cannot always be guaranteed.

## PRICES

**College rooms** - per person, sharing a twin or double room, half board: £365.00

<b>Camping</b> - per person, including breakfast	Adult.....£149.00
	Under 16 (as of 2 Aug 2008) .....£49.50
	Under 5 (as of 2 Aug 2008) .....£20.00
<b>plus</b> price per pitch	Small pitch.....£35.00
	Standard pitch.....£70.00

Optional meal packages for campers:

upgrade from breakfasts to evening meals	Adult - £25	under 16 - £12	under 5 - £7
evening meal package	Adult - £68	under 16 - £35	under 5 - £7

All prices above are for the full 7 days. Part-week holidays are not available due to security restrictions, nor are accommodation packages without at least one meal. Anything not listed above is at your own expense.

**Day visitor passes** are available at a rate of £30 per day for a maximum of two days. These include route sheets, evening meal and access to that evening's entertainment. Birthday Tea visitor tickets are available at £10 each for anyone who would like to join in just for the Birthday Tea. The ticket does not give access to the college site.

## BOOKINGS

To make a booking, complete and sign the Booking Form and send it, together with full payment, to:

**Birthday Rides Co-ordinator, 14 Methley Terrace, Chapel Allerton, Leeds LS7 3NL**

Cheques should be made payable to **CTC Tours**, or complete the credit/debit card slip on the Booking Form. Bookings close on **Saturday 12 July 2008**, or when maximum numbers are reached, if sooner. You should receive your Booking Confirmation within 14 days of receipt of your booking. If not, contact the Co-ordinator on 0113 262 2328 or [br@ctc.org.uk](mailto:br@ctc.org.uk).

The Birthday Rides Handbook, including routes sheets, will not be available in advance of the event.

If for any reason you should have to change or cancel all or part of your booking, see the Booking Conditions for information on how to do this and what your liability will be.

If you would like to book any of the optional coach trips at a later date, you may request a Supplementary Booking Form when you send in your main booking. The deadline date for booking these and for returning the Audax entry form is still Saturday 12 July 2008, and is subject to places still being available.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Travel and parking

The College is situated just off the A44, one mile east of Moreton-in-Marsh (OS 50:000 sheet 151, GR 22 32). You can download a map and directions from [www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/About+Us/Find+Us/](http://www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/About+Us/Find+Us/), though one will be sent to you with your Booking Confirmation.

Moreton-in-Marsh is on the London Paddington to Worcester rail line, operated by First Great Western. Cycles are carried free of charge but booking may be necessary. For further information contact the train operator [www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/Content.aspx?id=80](http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/Content.aspx?id=80) or National Rail enquiries [www.nationalrail.co.uk/](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/) or telephone 08457 484950.

There is plenty of motor vehicle parking on site but, unfortunately, there is only very limited undercover parking for cycles. You may wish to bring a cover for your cycle.

### Security access to the site

The site has 24-hour security, and access can only be gained if you are wearing your security tag. When you first arrive you will be met at the Gate House by our welcoming committee who will check you in and, if camping, give you your pitch number. Please remember to bring your booking confirmation. Everyone then needs to register and collect their security tag and if appropriate, motor vehicle pass, from one of the main buildings. If you are staying in the College this is where you will go to obtain your room key.

**Please note: arrival after 9pm on the Saturday is not allowed except in emergencies. Should you be unavoidably delayed, or need to arrive on the Sunday morning, you must let the Co-ordinator know.** A mobile number will be listed on your Booking confirmation. Day visitors should report to the Gate House on the day they are booked.

### Other facilities on site

There is a small laundry area equipped with two washing machines (washing powder will be available), and a shop that sells toiletries, milk, bread, sandwiches, a selection of chocolates and confectionary, Fire Service souvenirs, newspapers and magazines.

A large dedicated play area with games and some sports equipment is next to the campsite for anyone, regardless of age, to use.

The swimming pool (don't forget to bring swimwear), sauna and gym are available for use during standard opening hours at a reduced rate for Birthday Riders (pool, including sauna, currently max £2.60 per person per session, gym max £3.50 per person per session).

There are two on-site bars (the main beer is Boddingtons and there are always guest beers). Bars close at 11pm, with the building vacated by 11:30pm. One of the bars has two American-style bowling alleys (currently £1 per person per session) and a traditional pub bowling alley (free).

Smoking is permitted only within certain designated areas in the grounds.

## Birthday Tea

This will be held at Sezincote House & Garden (OS 151, GR 17 30), approx. four miles southwest of the College. ([www.sezincote.co.uk/](http://www.sezincote.co.uk/)) The grounds will be open from 1pm – 4pm to give everyone a chance to take full advantage of the lovely location (weather permitting!) and enjoy a leisurely afternoon meeting up with friends. A packed lunch and tea/soft drink is Included on arrival. The birthday cake will be cut a bit later. Transport to the venue can be booked for children or non-cycling partners for a nominal fee on the Booking Form.



## Rides

A selection of rides, going in a similar direction each day with places of interest noted, are planned to suit everyone from families with young children and those new to cycling to long-distance riders. Off-road (MTB) riders will also have a choice of routes with different grades and skill challenges.

Category	Miles per day	Kilometres per day
'A' rides	60–80	95–130
'B' rides	40–60	65–95
'C' rides	20–40	32–65
Family rides	10–20	16–32
Off-road	various lengths and grading	

All rides will be self-led, that is you decide what time to leave and who you wish to ride with. Tea stops will be indicated on the route sheets; food and drink at refreshment stops is at your own expense.

## Audax rides

During the week four Audax rides, from 50 to 200 km, are being offered. Entry is free to all who are registered for the Birthday Rides, but if you want to take part, you will need to fill in an AUK entry form (enclosed) for each event and return this in advance. Entry on the day cannot be guaranteed.



Mon 4 Aug Start 8am 20 km Spa Run 15-30 kph  
A delightful run round Spa towns and ancient villages. Also offered on Wed and Fri

Mon 4 Aug Start 9:30am 50 km Little AUK 6.25-20 kph  
A gentle ride designed for short legs as a basic introduction to Audax. Suitable for children of all ages (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult). Adults also welcome. Also offered on Wed and Fri

Wed 6 Aug Start 8am 200 km Cotswold Cross 15-30 kph  
Includes harsh and gentle, the Cotswold Edge and Thames Valley. Also offered Mon and Fri

Fri 8 Aug Start 9am 100 km Birthday Flyer 12-30 kph  
Based on the Cheltenham Flyer Taster. Also offered on Mon and Wed

## Competitions, points events & other activities

A Mini Touring Competition will take place during the week for younger riders with prizes awarded for different age groups. This will include a cyclo-cross challenge, a Treasure Hunt competition with map reading involved, a 30 mile (50 km) Little AUK Audax for the older riders and a bike handling skills competition. Prizes will be awarded to the overall winner and opposite sex winners. There are categories for different age groups.

Also for the under 16s, on the Tuesday there will be Cycling Olympics on-site, which will include a range of cycling skills, trials and races. Medals will be awarded. Following on from this there will be a cycling parade to Sezincote House & Garden to join the Birthday Tea celebrations (adults welcome to join in).

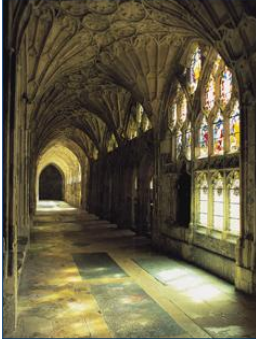
Face painting, drawing clubs and games will also be available from approx 4-5:30pm on some evenings, and there will also be a children's film.

Away points will be awarded under CTC Tourist Competition Rules. Details of these events (which are also for adults) are still to be confirmed.

The British Cycle Quest (BCQ) will be incorporated this year, with some rides going to, or close to, BCQ locations. A prize will be awarded to the rider visiting the most locations during the week.

## Local tourist attractions

A full range of tourist information will be available at the Information Desk throughout the week with details of local attractions and places to be visited whilst out cycling. Bus and train timetables will also be on display for non-cycling partners so that they can easily access local attractions and the nearest towns without the hassle driving and car-parking fees. Cheltenham Spa is within easy access by bus, and there are regular train services from Moreton-in-Marsh to Oxford and Worcester. There is a famous local market (with approximately 200 stalls) in Moreton-in-Marsh on a Tuesday.



Moreton-in-Marsh has a range of restaurants and pubs serving food, as well as fast food outlets. The average cost of a two-course meal is £11.50 plus coffee. As August is the high season you are advised to book a table at your chosen restaurant in advance.

### Optional day coach trips

For anyone who would like a rest day, and for non-cycling partners and children, four coach trips have been organised (see Booking Form for prices). Those booking at the concessionary rate should be prepared to provide proof on the day. All coach trips are subject to minimum numbers being booked.



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| Mon 4 Aug   | Tour of the Cotswolds and 'Shakespeare's Stratford'  |
| Wed 6 Aug   | Blenheim Palace & Gardens. The Palace is near Woodstock, approx 15 miles southeast of the College (OS 164, GR 44 16). Price includes admission.  |
| Thurs 7 Aug | 'Abbeys and Cathedrals' (Tewkesbury and Gloucester)  |
| Fri 8 Aug   | 'Glorious Gardens'. Visit at least two gardens, one of which will be a National Trust property. The itinerary will not be decided until nearer the time as this will be dependent on which gardens are at their best. Price does <b>not</b> include admission. |

## Evening events

During the week a variety of free events will take place on site. There may be more than one event each night, with some events repeated on several nights. This will include slide shows, films, a quiz night, Fire Service College Tour and a Saddlebag Sale (bring your goods and gear for sale, swap or display).

There will be evening 'Midsummer Wheel' rides to local hostelrys situated within a short distance of the College (bike lights required). Adults only. Rides may be repeated if sufficiently popular.

The coach trip to Hook Norton Brewery on Wed 6 Aug is for those aged 18 and over only. The price of £12 includes a 2-hour tour and beer sampling. Hook Norton is approx 9 miles east of the College (OS 151, GR 35 33); see [www.hooknortonbrewery.co.uk](http://www.hooknortonbrewery.co.uk). The coach will need to leave the College at approx. 6:30pm. This coach trip is subject to minimum numbers being booked.

## Maps

OS 1:50,000 maps 150/151/162/163/164 will cover all of the rides. Unfortunately, Moreton-in-Marsh lies on the corner of map 151, so all five maps could be needed if you want to trace all of the routes onto your map. Alternatively, you could use pages from a small-scale road atlas and join these together. The Goldeneye 'Cotswolds Cycling Country Lanes and Byways' map also covers much of the area (2 miles = 1 inch), as does the 'Cotswolds Mountain Bike Routes' map. £5.99 each from [www.goldeneyemaps.com](http://www.goldeneyemaps.com).

## Cycles & equipment

Whether you bring a road bike, touring bike or mountain bike, please ensure that it is in good working condition, especially the brakes. You should carry sufficient spares and tools during the rides to deal with punctures and minor repairs that may arise, and you will need panniers or a saddlebag to carry any spare clothing (don't forget the waterproofs!) and food. Refreshment stops are fairly regularly spaced, but a water bottle and emergency rations are always useful, especially on the longer/off-road rides. Parents might consider carrying a small towel as some rides will go near places where children can paddle. Under English law, cycle helmets are not compulsory, and it is entirely your personal choice as to whether you wear one or not. You will, though, need lights if participating in the optional evening pub rides.