

# Welcome to Reading CTC

Reading CTC is your local group within the Cyclists' Touring Club, Britain's national cyclists' organisation. Reading CTC represents the area around Reading, Bracknell, Henley & West Berkshire.

**Bike Rides For All ...** We organise club rides for all tastes and abilities.

Visitors are very welcome - it costs nothing to join our rides. We think that you'll soon want to join the CTC as there's so much more than just rides. Read across the page about the benefits of being a member - you might save your membership fee in bike shop discounts!

**On-Road Sunday Rides** – These range from a leisurely 15 miles up to 70 miles-plus, but all rides proceed at the pace of the slowest rider. Leaders try to plan their rides to use quiet country lanes, stopping at a country pub or café for lunch before returning.

**Morning rides** – Sunday road and off-road, aim to return to the start point by 12.30 - without a lunch stop.

**Tuesdays** – Ride on your own to meet up with club friends for lunch - there's no organised ride or leader. *First timers/non-regulars should phone organiser Dorothy Davenhill 969 3759 to check the venue hasn't changed.* These popular "Make your own way" rides are SHOWN IN UPPER CASE.

**Wednesday 'Meet at 11's'** - for those who want a few more miles mid-week.

**EVENTS** – What is an Audax? An Audax is a self-supported endurance ride, navigated by following a route sheet. Check the Audax UK website or email Mick Simmons events@readingctc.co.uk

**SOCIALS** – Get togethers that may not include cycling.

**NB:** *occasionally*, without mention in the rides list, road rides may use tracks (**Rough Stuff**), for example to avoid busy roads. Whilst these should be OK for road bikes, please check with the leader beforehand if you prefer not to stray from the tarmac.

**Off-Road Rides** – These rides may offer **technical** challenges such as steep descents over obstacles. They are intended for mountain bikes and **wearing a helmet is recommended**. Longer rides may require a lot of **stamina**. Evening rides require lights powerful enough to ride safely off-road in the dark. Phone the leader a few days before if you want to check.

**★Wednesday Evening Rides** – From April through to September, On-Road & all year Off-Road rides from 10 to 20 & sometimes 30 miles leave Reading at 7:30 for a cycle ride through the lanes before stopping at a country pub. You'll need **lights & warmer clothing** for the return journey. All evening rides are highlighted with a star ★. Winter - meet at the pub from 21:30 if you don't want to ride

**TOURS** – Weekends away & cycling holidays. Advanced booking and deposits for accommodation may be required.

## Choosing your first club ride.

If you've never ridden very far before, why not start with one of our short On-Road rides. **Leisurely** 10am Sunday rides & Leisurely Wednesday Evening rides are aimed at our more leisurely members and newcomers alike. More experienced riders will probably feel comfortable going straight for one of our Moderate rides.

If you fancy riding **Off-Road**, but you're not sure of your stamina, why not choose one of our **"short"** Sunday off-road rides. These are still full off-road rides including some narrow, steep and technical trails but cover a shorter distance than the longer rides. Note that due to the nature of off-road riding, under 16s must be accompanied by a parent on all off-road rides. If you are not sure, contact the leader, or our club Off-Road Co-Ordinator, **Ian Doyle on 07974 409607**

To come on a ride, just turn up at the start point (see back page). You don't have to phone the leader beforehand, unless you want to check some detail about the ride. Please make sure your bike is in good working order beforehand. While there will be many willing hands to help with mechanical problems, all participants should carry a basic toolkit, including a puncture repair kit, spare inner tube & pump. Day rides up to 50 miles generally return by 4pm: longer rides perhaps later. Bring lights in winter in case ride is delayed. Contact leader if you want an estimate of return time.

**NB:** Under 18's **\*must\*** bring a **\*completed\*** Parental Consent Form to the ride (available from [www.readingctc.org.uk](http://www.readingctc.org.uk)) Under 16s **\*MUST\*** be accompanied by a parent

The <i>approximate Pace</i> of our road rides is as follows:- <b>Leisurely (Leis)</b> – 8-10mph <b>Moderate (Mod)</b> – 10-12mph <b>Brisk</b> – 12-15 mph <b>Fast</b> – See Reading Cycling Club <b>Ride Start Points</b> - see the back page.	<b>Distance</b> is in <b>miles</b> and indicates the <i>approximate</i> total distance to the destination and back to the start again. Leisurely paced rides of 30+ miles are described as <b>Leisurely/Moderate</b> <b>Phone Numbers</b> - are for Reading (prefix 0118-) unless the code is given.
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**NOTE FOR LEADERS:** For latest advice for leaders, please download the **leaders' pack** at <http://www.readingctc.co.uk/docs/rideleaderpack.zip>

## There's More To Club Membership Than Riding A Bike

<b>National benefits including:-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bi-monthly magazine, packed with news, touring, technical and campaign information,</li><li>• £5m third party insurance cover when cycling,</li><li>• Free legal claims advice,</li><li>• CTC Shop. Well chosen parts at keen prices,</li><li>• CTC technical advice,</li><li>• CTC touring guides.</li></ul>	<b>Local benefits are:-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discounts of 10% or more in many bike shops,</li><li>• Our web site Members' Area with members' forum, post free adverts, messageboard, destinations database, etc.</li><li>• Lead rides (when you're ready!)</li></ul>
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• You can apply online at [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk) or phone the CTC on 0844 736 8451

## Ride Start Points:-

**The Fountain (Fount)** – between Crowne Plaza (formerly Holiday Inn) & Reading Rowing Club boathouse at south end of Caversham Bridge. Free Parking available. Ordnance Survey (OS) Landranger Map/Grid Ref 175/710746

**Earley** – We meet in Chalfont Court, the car park for Lower Earley Library, Trinity Church & Earley Retreat PH, off Chalfont Close. From Chalfont Way, take roundabout into Chalfont Close and turn left at Trinity Church into Chalfont Court. Meet by bike racks on far side (undercover if wet). 175/743702  
*Please note:- the directions above give the easiest route to describe but not the best route for cycles. Once you know where it is, investigate the others & find the best one for you.*

**Theale Car Park** – at the east end of the High Street, easily reached from Calcot over the M4 footbridge near junction 12. Map/Grid Ref 175/646714

**Dinton Pastures** – the Country Park between Woodley and Winnersh. We meet by the Dragonfly Café in the car park (NB: fee for parking) off Davis Street. Map/Grid Ref 175/784717

**NB:** Except where stated (& 'Meet at 11's'), all rides are circular routes which finish at the start point.

*If you don't want to ride to the start, why not contact the leader & arrange a meeting point? Don't be late, they won't wait!*

**Wednesday 'Meet at 11's'** - meet 10:30; rides **depart** from elevenses at **11am!** Distance shown is **from Reading to the lunch stop & back.**

If you have any further queries please contact The Secretary, John Hammond, 28 Hillside Rd, Earley, Reading or telephone 07818-400440. Or, visit our web site at [www.ReadingCTC.org.uk](http://www.ReadingCTC.org.uk).

Keep up to date: check our web site frequently for updates. Members can send their e-mail address to John Hammond to receive the monthly e-Mag newsletter. Make sure he has your latest e-mail address.



**Members: We Need You!** If you've never led a ride & would like to try, please contact Runs Secretary Al Neal on 967 9666



## NOTICES and DATES FOR YOUR DIARY *You've Been Warned!*

11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Social</b> Christmas Lunch – The Griffin, Caversham
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Tour</b> Off-Road – Black Mountains – Hostel accommodation
25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Event</b> AUDAX – Kennet Valley – 200/100Km – Grazeley Village Hall
15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Event</b> Hell of the North Cotswolds – Entries open 3 <sup>rd</sup> January

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# BIKE RIDES FOR ALL



DECEMBER 2011 -  
FEBRUARY 2012  
FREE!

**WANT TO:-**  
**FIND THE BEST OFF-ROAD IN THE CHILTERNs?**  
**DISCOVER THE QUIET LANES AROUND READING?**  
**EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD ON YOUR BIKE?**  
**THEN COME AND JOIN US! READING CTC**  
**YOU WON'T GET LEFT BEHIND ...**

