



This prospectus sets out the programme for the Birthday Rides and together with the Bookings Conditions and Booking Form is the basis of our contract with you.

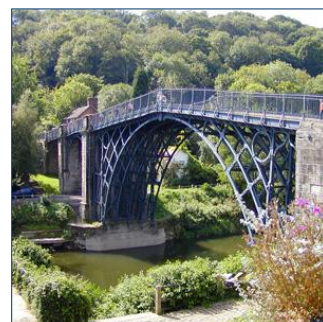
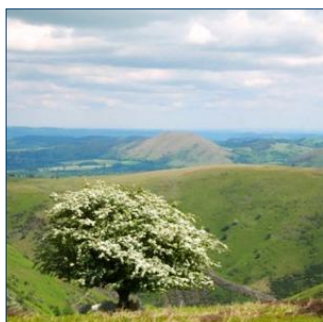
CTC Birthday Rides Shropshire 13 - 19 August 2012

This year's Birthday Rides are based at Ellesmere College, a private boarding and day school close to the centre of Ellesmere in North Shropshire. This large site has lovely vistas over the surrounding countryside and is a perfect base for exploring Shropshire's varied landscape and discovering its picturesque lanes and villages as well as being close to Cheshire and North Wales. The College is shown on OS 1:50000 map 126, GR 400335. www.ellesmere.com. Shropshire is ideal for cycle touring with rolling countryside nearby and more challenging topography in the south of the county, plus nearby North Wales has many significant hills. There is also an abundance of attractions, tea rooms and country pubs to choose from.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- Mon 13 Aug** Arrive from 2pm onwards. Register at the Lower School and collect your Birthday Rides Pack containing full details of the week's rides and events
Various times: Welcoming talk by Peter Mathison, CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours
Various times: Talk/slides of the area
- Tue 14 Aug** Choice of 4 day rides
Afternoon Treasure Hunt in Ellesmere (available all week)
7pm - 8pm: Experiences of GPS and Digital Mapping Forum
8:15pm - 10:15pm: Jigsaw Sounds - singing & entertainment
- Wed 15 Aug** Choice of 4 day rides
Optional event: Coach with bike accommodation departs 9am to Plowden (South Shropshire)
6:45pm - 7:45pm: A view through glass – a digital reconstruction of a 'magic lantern' show
8pm - 10:30pm: Quiz Night - group into teams; quiz suitable for all; prizes awarded
- Thurs 16 Aug** Choice of 4 day rides
Optional event: 'A' Ride with a buffet lunch at Picklescott Village Hall (can also be a shorter car-assisted ride)
Optional event: Coach departs at 10am for Shrewsbury for a free waking tour led by Town Guides, followed by time to explore on your own
7pm - 8pm: Technical Forum - Modern Cycles and Equipment
8:30pm - 10:30pm: Three Men in a Bow Tie - sketches & songs
- Fri 17 Aug** Choice of 4 day rides
2pm - 2:30pm: Cyclists' procession across the town back to the College
2:45pm - 3:15pm: A short Thanksgiving Service in Ellesmere College Chapel
3:30pm - 5:30pm: Birthday Tea in the College grounds
8:30pm - 10:30pm: Jazz with Mike Carnie's Jazz Allstars
- Sat 18 Aug** Choice of 4 day rides
8pm - late: Barn Dance with 'Five Speed Box'
- Sun 19 Aug** Rooms to be vacated by 10am

Some rides and events may need to be re-arranged due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Some may also be oversubscribed due to space limitations. All events titled 'Optional' incur an additional fee (not included). If wet, a range of children's and other films will be shown in the main college complex.



ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

The accommodation will be based on one site at Ellesmere College

Residential Accommodation and other College facilities

Rooms are located in seven houses in and around the main college building. There are single, twin and multi-bedded rooms suitable for families or friends sharing. **There are a limited number of en-suite rooms**, but there are ample showers and toilets nearby for those without en-suite facilities. Bed linen is provided, but you will need to bring your own towels and toiletries.



Access to the houses is by a coded entry system and to the rooms by key.

Lost keys will incur a £30 charge. There are no lifts in the houses, so anyone requiring ground floor accommodation should request this when booking. If you have any other special requirements please show these clearly on the booking form. Unfortunately the College does not have accommodation suitable for wheelchair users, and access to the main college building may be difficult for those with limited mobility.

All residential accommodation will be on a half board basis. There is no self-catering accommodation available. Meals will be self-service. Breakfast (7:30–9am) will offer a choice of cooked and uncooked food, tea and coffee. The three course evening meal (6–7:30pm) will consist of a starter, main course and dessert (tea and coffee will be available from a machine for a small charge). If you have any special dietary requirements, e.g. vegetarian, diabetic or gluten/wheat free meals, please indicate these under special requests on the Booking Form. Meals will only be served to those wearing the appropriate identification. Packed lunches will be available to purchase for £6.00.

Each house has a sitting room and a small kitchen equipped with a kettle and cups and a small fridge for milk and small items of food. Most houses have limited laundry facilities.

There is free car parking on site in various locations. It will not always be possible to park next to your accommodation, but all car parking is only a short walking distance away. Secure cycle parking will also be available.

The main college building also contains the Dining Hall, the Big School (the venue for the social events) and the bar (open each evening). The Rides HQ will also be based here. There is no shop on site. The College swimming pool will be available from 4pm - 6pm Tuesday to Friday free of charge. This facility is limited to a maximum of 20 swimmers at any one time.

Please note that pets are not allowed on any part of the College site, and smoking is permitted only in a designated area (see Bookings Conditions, Clause 15).

Campsite

Camping for tents will be on a College sports field. There are plenty of showers and toilets in the nearby Lower School, which will be open during daylight hours (7am – 8pm approx). These will be supplemented with a portable shower/toilet unit nearer to the camping area, which should be open 24 hours. Only small camping stoves will be allowed on the campsite. No other outdoor fires are permitted. **No motor vehicles will be allowed on the campsite, not even to unload.** Unloading will be possible within approx 80 metres of any pitch, and those with motor vehicles will be allocated pitches nearest to the car parking area. Cycle campers will be located pitches furthest away from this area.

Motorhomes, campervans and caravans will be positioned around the edge of another sports field and not on hard standing. If you will need to move your vehicle from the site during the week, please indicate this under special requests on the Booking Form so that you can be allocated a pitch nearer the access road. However, should the weather be wet, vehicles may be unable to be moved. No electric hook-ups are provided, but a chemical disposal point and a tap for drinking water will be available.

There is some lighting around the camping areas, but you are advised to bring a torch. Plenty of bins will be provided for refuse and will be emptied each morning. No special security arrangements will be in force at the campsites, but there will be volunteers on site during the day. Campers will have use of the secure cycle parking.

Camping is offered on a half board or self-catering basis. Campers who would like some meals will be able to order and pay for these 24 hours in advance, though the first Monday evening meal can be booked when checking in, preferably by 4pm. Cooked breakfast - £7.20; packed lunch - £6.00; 3 course evening meal - £10.80.

There will be three types of pitch:

- small pitch - for a backpacker type tent for 1 or 2 people, away from the larger tents
- large pitch - for a larger tent
- for a motorhome, campervan or caravan

Members of groups wishing to camp near each other are advised to book at the same time and indicate clearly the name of their group. We will do our best to meet such requests, although adjacent pitches cannot be guaranteed.

PACKAGE PRICES

Book before 22 April 2012 for a substantial discount

Each Package includes 6 nights accommodation or campsite pitch as specified in the description of each one, the Birthday Rides pack, route cards for the rides programme as requested on arrival, the Birthday Tea, access to the complete social and entertainment programme (*other than those shown as optional*) and amenities of the College.

Residential Houses

All prices are **per person**, and all rooms must be booked as a unit, with those sharing booking together. Children under 15 (as at 13 August 2012) pay the 'Child' price, and they must share a room with a parent or guardian. All others pay the full 'Adult' price. Both Package 1 and 2 include half board (breakfast and evening meal).

Package 1 – En-suite room

| | | Standard | If booked before 22 April |
|----------------------|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| Single | | £450 | £410 |
| Twin (2 people) | Adult | £435 | £395 |
| | Child | £340 | £305 |
| Triple (3 people) | Adult | £412 | £375 |
| | Child | £325 | £295 |

Package 2 – Room without private facilities

| | | Standard | If booked before 22 April |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| Single | | £424 | £385 |
| Twin (2 people) | Adult | £410 | £370 |
| | Child | £320 | £290 |
| Triple (3 people) | Adult | £410 | £370 |
| | Child | £320 | £290 |
| Quad (4 people) | Adult | £395 | £350 |
| | Child | £220 | £200 |
| Multi-bedded (5, 6 or 7 people) | Adult | £370 | £335 |
| | Child | £205 | £170 |

Campsite

All prices are **per person**. Children under 15 (as at 13 August 2012) pay the 'Child' price, and they must share a pitch with a parent or guardian. All others pay the full 'Adult' price.

Package 3 – Including half board (breakfast and evening meal)

| | Standard | If booked before 22 April |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| Adult | £235 | £211 |
| Child | £172 | £155 |

Package 4 – Self catering (no meals included)

| | Standard | If booked before 22 April |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| Adult | £130 | £115 |
| Child | £ 65 | £ 58 |

Registration only £70 (no discount for early bookings)

For members living locally or arranging their own accommodation, the Registration Pack includes the Birthday Rides pack, route cards for the rides programme as requested on arrival, the Birthday Tea, access to the complete social and entertainment programme *other than those shown as optional* and amenities of the College.

NB. We will not be taking bookings for the Birthday Tea only or providing route sheets via a tourist office.

BOOKING

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

BR Bookings, 1 Ryelands, Radbrook, Shrewsbury SY3 9BZ

Cheques should be made payable to **CTC Tours**, or complete the credit/debit card slip on the Booking Form.

Please note: There is a 2.5% fee for paying by credit card; there is no charge for paying by debit card.

Bookings close on **Friday 29 June 2012**, or earlier if maximum numbers are reached. You should receive your Booking Confirmation within 14 working days of receipt of your booking; if not, please contact Peter Mathison, Birthday Rides Co-ordinator, **preferably by email** (br@ctc.org.uk), or tel 07733 700529. **These are also the contact details for any other queries you may have.**

All prices are based on a minimum number of bookings being received. If there are insufficient bookings we will contact you no later than Friday, 11 May 2012 and return all monies paid.

If for any reason you should have to change or cancel all or part of your booking, please refer to the Booking Conditions, Clause 3.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following is for information only and does not form part of the contract detailed in the Prospectus.

Getting to Ellesmere

By cycle – The Shropshire minor road network is well signposted between villages, and most longer distance cycle travellers should be able to navigate easily from 1:250000 scale or larger maps.

By train – The nearest station is at Gobowen, 7 miles west of Ellesmere, on the Shrewsbury to Chester line, but there are other options including Shrewsbury, Whitchurch and Chester. You are advised to check with your local travel centre or on-line.

By car – Whitchurch is west of M6 junctions 15 & 16. From Whitchurch take the A495 west to Ellesmere

On arrival at Ellesmere

The entrance to the College is off the minor road to Tetchill, one mile southwest of Ellesmere. OS 1:50000 map 126, GR 400335.

Registration will be from 2pm - 8:30pm on Monday 13 August 2012. **PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE THIS TIME.** Please bring your Booking Confirmation with you. Should you be delayed or unable to arrive on the Monday please contact Peter Mathison, BR Co-ordinator (a mobile number will be listed on your Booking Confirmation) to discuss other arrangements. There will be no discount for missed meals.

Local members and helpers will be on hand to show you where to register and where your accommodation or camping pitch is. You will be issued with appropriate identification showing which package you have booked, bicycle frame number and motor vehicle pass for authorised parking. Participants should wear their identification at all times during the week.

Rides

All rides will leave from the College. There will be five routes available for each of the four categories of rides, ranging in length from 20 to 80 miles. Rides will not be formally led, rather all routes will be available to ride on all days to help minimise congestion on local roads and at refreshment venues. Start times will be advised, but staggering of times on the popular routes will be encouraged. Possible refreshment stops (not included in the package price) will be mentioned. The Rides HQ will have a large OS map posted showing the routes, and you will be able to select the route cards you need rather than receiving a full pack of route cards.

The rides will be categorised as follows:

'D' rides (10 – 20 miles)

'C' rides (20 – 40 miles)

'B' rides (40 - 60 miles)

'A' rides (60 – 80 miles)

There will not be any Audax rides this year.

We will endeavour to have a vehicle available on riding days to meet emergency pick up requirements (in the event of an accident or a serious mechanical failure). We reserve the right to charge users of this service. It is not planned to have a cycle shop/repairer on site.

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 sparse in some parts so a water bottle and emergency rations are always useful, especially on the longer rides. Cycle helmets are not compulsory.

Maps and .GPX files

OS 1:50 000 maps 117, 118, 125, 126 and 127 cover most routes.

If demand is sufficient we may make route sheets available as .gpx files which could be downloaded to your SatNav at the event. There would be a small charge for this (£5 approx) payable then. Please indicate on the Booking Form if you would be interested in this facility, and you will then be emailed after bookings have closed and informed if this facility will be available or not.

Birthday Tea

This will be held in the grounds of the College from 3:30pm on Friday 17 August. After brief formalities, a special guest will cut the decorated birthday cake. Everyone will then receive a piece of cake and a hot or cold drink.

Optional events

These events are based on a minimum number of bookings being received. If there are insufficient bookings by Friday 11 May 2012, we reserve the right to withdraw these events and return all monies paid.

Wednesday 15 August: Coach with bike accommodation to Plowden (South Shropshire, OS 137, GR 3887) for self-led ride back to the College, departing from the College at 9am. Suggested routes for the ride will be available; these are expected to be at least 40 miles. Outward coach price £10 per person (no concessions).



Thursday 16 August: Self-led 'A' ride to Picklescott (OS 137, GR 43 99) for buffet lunch provided by the WI at the Village Hall. Those who wish to do their own car assisted ride can also book the lunch, and route sheets for 'B' and 'C' rides from a suggested car parking location will be provided. Lunch price £5 (no concessions).



Thursday 16 August: Coach to Shrewsbury for a free walking tour led by Town Guides, followed by time to explore on your own. Depart from the College at 10am and return from Shrewsbury at 3:30pm. Return coach price £7.50 (no concessions).



Holiday Insurance

You are strongly advised to take out insurance to cover your loss in case of cancellation. Please refer to the Booking Conditions, Clause 6.