

## PEDAL 2010

Entries are urgently needed for the Wey and Arun Canal Trust's second annual fund-raising Pedal which is being planned for Sunday 26 September 2010. It will take place entirely on the Downs between Patching, Arundel and Storrington with a mass start at 10.30 a.m.. The course will be entirely on bridleways, paved and unpaved tracks and dead-end roads barely used by vehicular traffic. The full route will be approximately 30 miles for those dedicated cyclists who want a complete workout. However, the course is being designed so that participants can return from two intermediate points. That will give a full course (F) of about 30 miles, an intermediate course (I) of about 25 miles, and a novice course (N) of about 10 miles. With the variable length routes and the absence of any vehicular traffic it is very much hoped that both young families and adult riders whose cycling skills or fitness have declined over the years will be encouraged to take part. Older Trust members may wish to promote the event to grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

The start and finish will be the parking lot in Dover Lane north from the A27 near Poling. Those wishing to avoid all car use can reach the start easily by bike from either Arundel station (Arun Valley line) 18 minutes or Angmering station (West Coastway line) 18 minutes, largely on cycle paths. Detailed cycling instructions from either or both of these stations will be provided upon request. By car, eastbound traffic on the A27 should turn north on Dover Lane just past Poling. Westbound traffic needs to use the lane provided at Poling for a U-turn into the eastbound lanes (signposted A27 Worthing, Brighton).

Participants (F,I,N) will pass the ruins of the Clock Tower that overlooked the Michelgrove Estate. Originally a two-storey pigeon house, a third story was added when it was converted into a clock tower. The clock apparently now is in the High Street in Steyning! Pictures of the tower can be seen at [www.findonvillage.com/0316\\_the\\_tussle\\_between\\_mr\\_walker\\_and\\_mr\\_cross.htm](http://www.findonvillage.com/0316_the_tussle_between_mr_walker_and_mr_cross.htm). Riders (F,I) will also visit the remains of a WW2 Churchill tank in a field between Kithurst and Springhead Hills. The story of this tank can be found at [www.findonvillage.com/0566\\_the\\_last\\_tank.htm](http://www.findonvillage.com/0566_the_last_tank.htm). Later in the ride we will pass (F,I) Canada farmyard. A picture of this spot that was once a dairy can be seen at [www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1018663](http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1018663). Nobody seems to know where the name Canada came from. At the far end of Blakehurst Lane we will pass close to the site of Jack Upperton's gallows (F,I). Read the story at [www.findonvillage.com/0143\\_findons\\_mounted\\_postboy.htm](http://www.findonvillage.com/0143_findons_mounted_postboy.htm). There will be some spectacular views within the Downs and of the surrounding areas including, of course, the Arun valley.

The route will not be particularly technically challenging but since it is not entirely on paved roads at least a hybrid or trail bike will be needed. The course has been cycled several times on a simple steel-framed hybrid bike with wide tyres, but neither front nor rear suspension. Most children's bikes should be suitable. For those with no bicycle a few adult trail bikes will be available to be borrowed.

If you have any questions or enquiries or if you would like to help out on the day with organisation please e-mail me at [pedal@weyandarun.co.uk](mailto:pedal@weyandarun.co.uk).

Stephen Grover 30.07.2010