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Peddalling back to Edwardian times



A THREE-HOUR break in the rotten weather on Bank Holiday Monday was all it took for campaigning cyclists in Bexhill to snatch the opportunity for a "gentle cycle ride".

The plan was to pedal back in time to the Edwardian era for a themed civilised and nostalgic tour of the town followed by a picnic on the green at the De La Warr Pavilion.

The family event was organised by Bexhill Wheelers to promote safe cycling on the promenade and demonstrate how cycling is part of the traditional life of Bexhill.

However early morning rain and the threat of thunderstorms meant some supporters decided not to take part although the organisers refused to cancel, and were rewarded for their determination by a timely break in the clouds.

Ian Hollidge of Bexhill Wheelers said: "We were doing this to promote the need for awareness of cycling.

"Rother District Council doesn't encourage cycling; all it does is say it has a



strategy, but in reality it doesn't happen."

He hoped however that the Next Wave project might mean improved facilities for cycling in Bexhill and said: "In the 1930s when the De La Warr Pavilion was built, the roads were not busy. But now everybody wants to drive everywhere and park right outside where they want to be.

"So we have got to go backwards and create safe cycling routes because the roads are so busy, now everyone has a car.

"But we have options to show the councils - Rother, East Sussex and the Department of Transport - the ways we believe pedestrians, cyclists, cars, wheelchair users and mobility scooters can all work together and go on chosen routes safely."

The event was also supported by the Bexhill Classic Cycle Group which has been set up to encourage a historical cycling activity group for classic, veteran and vintage cycle owners to get together.

Ray Konyon, accompanied by his wife Patricia, said: "The majority of people are responsible cyclists and, as with everything, it is the minority that can sometimes cause problems. So what we did was have a gentle ride to raise awareness."

■ For details of the group call Ray on 07711 241891, or email on rk.home@hotmail.co.uk.

■ To contact Ian for information on Bexhill Wheelers, which meets at the Mermaid Bar at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of each month, call 01424 218993, or email on ianhollidge@hotmail.com.

