

Book Review - 'A VICTORIAN CYCLIST'

Stephen and Shirley Channing have produced a superb pairing of a book and a website.
(<http://www.victoriancyclist.com/>)

The book is a compilation of nine illuminating articles, quaintly called cycle rambles, reported regularly by an anonymous cyclist in the *Kebel's Gazette* of 1886.

The rider tells of his exploits around Margate, Kent on the recent invention. He not only enthuses about this new form of transport but is observant and knowledgeable on much he encounters during his well detailed and often off road routes. [Up to date directions are considerably included at the end of each report by the compilers]. Flora, fauna, history, architecture and pubs are all commented on by the Victorian gentleman, as are pre-emancipation female cyclists, and pieces and prices of the new fangled devices. The easy flowing prose, which has a cadence like cycling itself, carries the reader along as if freewheeling with a hind wind.

So as not to distract from the Victorian style and continuity of the book, a website has been created to complement the hard copy. Twenty first century references, route maps etc. can be downloaded for your own two wheel enjoyment. Don't be deterred if Kent is too far for a day out. I'm a Lancastrian cyclist yet found this book so full of variety and interest, with over two hundred illustrations and photographs, that I thoroughly enjoyed rambling through Victorian Kent from my armchair.

A VICTORIAN CYCLIST by Stephen and Shirley Channing is Published by OZARU Books, an imprint of BJ Translations Ltd.
First ed. published 01 Dec 2011 and printed by Lightening Source

PRICE £19.99 (ISBN:978-0-9559219-7-1)



Reviewed by **Anni Gregson**
Southend Section