

Newsletter October 2008

Hello all

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and were able to get some good cycling in despite the rain. It was good to have a break from campaigning in August and find time for some enjoyable activities such as the barbecue at Mair's caravan (a real gypsy one) in Hythe and a ride to Portsmouth with members of the Clarion Cycling Club, who were passing through Southampton on their way to Barcelona, commemorating Clarion members killed in the Spanish Civil War.

Do try to get along to Campaign meetings this autumn and bring your enthusiasm and ideas. In October we will have the Cycling Officer, Dale Bostock, with us to talk about local concerns, so if you have an issue to raise make sure you come along at 7.30pm on 13th October.



"Isn't it nice to see children cycling to school?"



GO DUTCH

All members and friends are invited to a presentation about cycling in Holland at 7.30 pm on 20th September at 20 Kellett Road. The evening will include a discussion about cycling policy and practice in Holland and what aspects could be implemented in the UK. Dutch style refreshments will be served.

For more details contact Dilys: telephone 023 80571372; email cyclewise@aol.com

DEATH OF CYCLIST ON ITCHEN BRIDGE

Most members will be aware of the accident on the Itchen Bridge which left one cyclist dead and another seriously injured. The cyclist who died, Derek Witt was well known in the local cycling clubs and was an inspiration to many younger cyclists as the tributes to him testify. It is a sad loss for the local cycling community. It appears that a car travelling in the opposite direction crossed the carriageway and crashed into the cyclists; more details will be revealed if there is a trial, which seems likely, later in the year.

10 % DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS AT THE BIKE SHOP

Don't forget to use your membership cards to obtain 10% discount in Portswood Cycles, The Hub, Peter Hargroves and The Bike Shop. The Bike Shop joined our 10% discount offer in May this year and can be found close to the Bargate in the City Centre. You may know it as Action Bikes as the name has only recently changed (for legal reasons). Please support these local independent retailers and encourage friends and relatives who are considering buying bicycles to join the Campaign first – it benefits us and the bike shops.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR CYCLISTS IN TEST VALLEY

Earlier this year Test Valley Borough Council produced a draft cycle strategy and consulted with relevant groups. Southampton Cycling Campaign was not consulted but, having expressed an interest, a draft strategy was sent to us and we were given a further two weeks from the response deadline to comment. The area of interest to us is primarily Test Valley South – Romsey, Chilworth, Rownhams, Nursling, North Baddesley and surrounding areas; we have not commented on proposals for Test Valley North, which is essentially Andover and surrounding areas.

Many thanks to John Heath, who went through the draft strategy point by point and produced a very detailed response, and to Dilys and Mark Brummel who also added comments.

Vivien Messenger from Test Valley Council Planning Department kindly agreed to come to our September meeting so that we could discuss in detail some of the proposals. A report will be in the November newsletter. If you would like to see the draft strategy contact Lindsy on 023 8033 2926 or come to a Campaign meeting.

NEW DRIVING TEST

The Driving Test is currently being revised and the CTC is suggesting changes which would give a higher profile to cyclists, highlighting, for example, the different road positions adopted by cyclists. You can add your suggestions on the CTC website. www.ctc.org.uk

IN MY VIEW

This is the name of the daily column in the Echo in which readers write 300-400 words on a topic they feel strongly about. Campaign members have written a number of these columns during the past year, recently having two columns printed in the same week. Many thousands read the In My View columns and it is a good form of publicity for the Campaign and a means of promoting dialogue about cycling in the paper. If you feel you could write a column on a cycling issue – preferably with a topical slant or local interest – simply send it to the Daily Echo and it will appear in print shortly afterwards. Our aim is to have a Cycle Campaign column in the Echo every month.

MARSHALS NEEDED FOR SAILORS' SOCIETY RIDE

Dale Bostock has asked if we can provide marshals for the Sailors' Society sponsored bike ride. This takes place on 21st September and includes rides of 10, 25 and 45 miles plus an optional ride around the docks. If you can spare some time on September 21st please let Lindsa or Dale know. You can, of course, sign up to take part in the sponsored cycle and raise some money for sailors in need. More information about the charity, which is based in Southampton, and the sponsored ride can be found at www.sailors-society.org.uk

HOVIS FREEWHEEL - SEPTEMBER 21st

This is your chance to spend the day cycling around central London WITHOUT A CAR IN SIGHT! Yes, central London will be closed to all vehicles except bicycles so come along and join the Campaign members who will be going to this event.. There will also be stalls, cycle demonstrations etc. This event was organised by TfL under Ken Livingstone with sponsorship from Hovis and it is reassuring to see that it is continuing under Boris Johnston. You will need to register at www.londonfreewheel.com (there is no cost and it takes about 2 minutes).

CYCLING DEMONSTRATION TOWNS

Earlier this year eleven further towns were added to the original five cycling demonstration towns: Blackpool, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Leighton/Linslade, Shrewsbury, Southend, Southport, Stoke, Woking and York. Sadly, Southampton was shortlisted but not selected at the final stage. We would be keen to know what Cycle England was looking for and how Southampton Cycling Campaign can help the City be successful if the opportunity should arise again. It is hoped that Dale will be able to shed some light on this at the October meeting.

The cycling demonstration towns all receive substantial funding to be used on measures to increase cycling as a form of transport (measured as % of journeys). The original demonstration towns have implemented a wide variety of schemes, information about which can be found at

www.CyclingEngland.co.uk

UPDATE ON THE STREETTREAD PROJECT

Some of you met Natalie of StreetTread Project in the spring and I thought to tell you what she and I have been up to this summer to date. StreetTread is a jointly funded by Sustrans, PCT and Council, to get people more active. Natalie employed my business CycleWise for various cycling events including in April, a two day scheme at Thornhill aimed at 5-16 yr olds - challenging range and we did have a 5yr old on stabilisers with a 6' 16yr old in one group. Planning ahead was the key as we suspected a full range of abilities and problems so planned a 15m diameter challenge course on grass playing fields with control skills taught beforehand on tarmac. Bike mechanics on site and a great time had by all but under attended sadly. In Sept, we have just started 3 courses of 6 weekly sessions for adults based at different locations and times around the city with bikes on site provided. An interesting mix of reasons amongst those who have responded and again a wide range of abilities from the terrified to able cyclist who needs company, it's the most rewarding job I have done and I see many openings ahead. If you have thought about becoming a National Standard instructor, do it and join CycleWise as Southampton needs you.

Dilys Gartside - CTC Accredited Instructor and Proprietor of CycleWise
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 21st September Hovis Freewheel
- 5th October Sailors' Society sponsored ride
- 13th October 7.30 pm Friends Meeting House
- Campaign meeting with Cycling Officer Dale Bostock
- 10th November 7.30 pm Friends Meeting House - Campaign meeting

Contacts

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