

# Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

February 2004

Phew! The 'festive season' is finally over. Call me Missy Eberneezer but I just get no pleasure from shopping, in crowds and overheated shops. I like the new year, its just so quiet. I did have a small gloat though. One Saturday afternoon in December, I realised I needed to buy a present quickly and so I nipped into town. Yes, I did say 'nipped'. The whole effort took less than an hour. Oh how I gloated as I sailed passed those queues outside the car-parks. Well, it was tipping down and I had to take just a little comfort from the journey...



I would like to take this opportunity to express the Campaign's enormous gratitude to June Mattless who has now retired as Membership Secretary. June has been vital to the Campaign for more years than anyone can remember and we wish her all our best. Thank you also to Sue Colborne who has now taken over June's duties.

In this penultimate issue of the newsletter supported by Southampton City Council you'll find a whole host of news and articles. Following last issue's debate on abuse of cyclists, Lindsi Bluemel calls for all cyclists to report all incidents, Chris Watts calls to cyclists who want to put their bikes on trains and Lyn Brayshaw calls for anyone interested in sharing transport. There is also news of past and forthcoming events aplenty!

Enjoy,  
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## Have you ever suffered abuse as a cyclist?

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Lindsay Bluemel

I was recently subjected to a torrent of totally unprovoked verbal abuse from the passengers of a car following me in St Denys Road. A number of my cycling friends have been abused in other ways - one had a drink thrown at her from a passing car and another was completely soaked (and temporarily blinded) by a super soaker water pistol.

Feeling that something needs to be done about the increasing level of abuse cyclists suffer, I wrote to the police about these incidents and asked them whether any action could be taken against the offenders. I received a telephone call from a very sympathetic police officer who said that they would certainly follow up any incidents of abuse cyclists report and if appropriate charge the offenders.

Of course, in order for this to be a realistic proposition you would need to have noted the car registration number and, preferably have a witness. It is to be welcomed that the police have expressed a willingness to take action on this issue. I would suggest that any members who experience abuse let the police know, even if there is no realistic chance of the culprits being identified, so that they can get an idea of the extent of the problem.



Photo courtesy George Platts, Sustrans, Winchester and Bristol

## ROAR!

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Chris Watts

### I'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN I'VE GOT THIS OFF MY CHEST

There is a PERSECUTED MINORITY in this country who have NO RIGHTS and NO REPRESENTATION in regulations. They are generally DESPISED and DISCRIMINATED against, PUSHED AROUND and yet they make NO FUSS and never have their case taken up by Parliament, the media, OR special interest groups such as Sustrans.

Comrades, the time has come to rise up be counted! Make your voice heard!! We are the Cyclists who travel by ROad And Rail (ROAR)

Time was when it was simple to commute any number of miles to work. Bike to the station, heave your wheels into the guard's luggage van, and pedal off at the other end. Handy for the odd spot of touring also. And the interest in cycling is growing, so this looks like a Good Thing, doesn't it?

Just consider how many people must live within a mile or so of a station, and who also work a mile or two from a destination station. Are they being encouraged to use a bike and improve their health, the environment, and the traffic situation, not to speak of the profits of the train companies?

NO WAY !!!



Train companies consider bikes a NUISANCE, to be discouraged and persecuted, hounded out of existence! All the newer trains have MUCH REDUCED space for bikes, down to a ludicrous 2 on the much-trumpeted "Desiro" fleet to be installed on SouthWest Trains. Money talks of course, and you can squeeze more seats in the space for foot passengers, is the thinking. The fact that they are TURNING AWAY custom, and DISCOURAGING people from using their service, just hasn't entered the Corporate SW Brain.

Almost every day we see cyclists being REFUSED a place on a SW "Wessex" train, because the rack for 5 bikes is full up. I have seen up to 7 cyclists waiting to get on, and no room. So what do they do? Reduce capacity!! What kind of MADNESS is this?? Is there some kind of Machiavellian plot at work?

## ROAR! continued...

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In vain do we hear the pious phrases of the Government, Local authority, Cycling interest groups (Sustrans etc) encouraging the growth of cycling. What is actually **DONE** to **PROVIDE** for this need? Where are the **REGULATIONS** that **REQUIRE** Rail companies to provide room for bikes?

Answer sadly was there **NONE**.

And if there is any advice for us from these folks, what do they say? Things like "Buy another bike" and leave it locked up at the other end. Ho yes? And who **PAYS** for the new bike? And who **GUARENTEES** that it will not be vandalised? Who provides secure lockers? Is it really too much to expect there to **ROOM** on the train instead?

Another response is to suggest "Buy a Folding Bike" that can go along as luggage. Fair enough, if that is convenient - and you are **RICH** enough to be able to **AFFORD** one, and **STRONG** enough to lug it about, and are **CAREFUL** not to hack your ankles or get oil everywhere, and don't have too **FAR** to travel on it. **NOT** a viable option for the serious cyclist, nor for the cash-strapped.

Rise up and **ROAR** you weedy lot of down-trodden masses! Do not politely and meekly stand at the station and moan and whine as the trains go by without you. **LOBBY** the Rail Company, **BOMBARD** them with furious letters and emails. **STIR UP** the interest groups to take up your cause as an underprivileged and persecuted minority. **WRITE** to your MP to get some **LEGISLATION** with **TEETH** that will **FORCE** the Train operators to take action. All we have at the moment are voluntary codes of practice that are very polite, and are largely **IGNORED**.

All legislation and regulations need to be **RETROSPECTIVE** !! No good making rules that only apply at some time in the future, at the Operator's convenience. Existing rolling stock needs to be taken in hand and refurbished. One solution would be to **REMOVE** the excessive amount of **FIRST CLASS** accommodation, and provide sensible Bike Racks instead.

Do I feel better now? I think I will when I see something in motion! Rise up and **ROAR!!!**



## **Car share/ lift share/ camper van borrow!**

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Lyn Brayshaw

I've recently checked out 2 car share web sites and there's nothing in this area, so I had the idea to see if anyone wants to do car share/ lift share in a very informal way. We've hired a car about 5 times, always using Enterprise as they were cheaper by far when we first looked into it (£36 for 72 hours over the weekend, e.g. 10am Fri to 10am Mon). This is always to visit family and friends, doing round trips to fit in lots of visits in the 72 hours - which is impossible by public transport.

So, these are the "shares" that we would be interested in:

1. We would like to see Great Grandma more so we would be interested in anyone who drives to/ from Aylesbury with a space or two in the car to take us or to bring her here (for a day or a few days).
2. We would be keen to borrow a camper van at some point, just to try it out!
3. And if anyone is keen on us using their car instead of using a hire car, then let us know.

Lastly, the update on us using our 2-child bike trailer is that it is great - but I do get very, very hot cycling with it!

## **In Southampton Without a Car**

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People powered event last October

Magnus Mulliner, Academic and Development Management, Sport and Recreation Service, in partnership with Southampton City Council has organised a new initiative themed "In Southampton Without a Car".

This event aims to promote getting around the city on a bike, by bus or other means but not using a car. External companies such as Halfords, Portswood Cycles, Sustrans, Southampton City Council (SCC), Hampshire County Council, Primary Care Trust (PCT), to name a few, supported the initiative. Students, staff and local community groups were invited to the event held in the Andrews Building on 7 October.

Representatives from SCC and HCC handed out free puncture repair kits with maps showing the location of all local cycle routes.

## News

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Eric Reed

- ⚡ Work is scheduled to start this month on provision of new street lighting between Parkway Southampton Airport station and Doncaster Drove, work on the widening of footway to form cycleway is due to start in February. As well as being a link to the railway station, it will form part of the National Cycle Network route, Southampton City council will be progressing further connections from the city boundary to Riverside Park at some stage.
- ⚡ Another upgrading of paths to shared cycle route scheme due to start in March is the route between Oakmount Avenue Chandlers Ford and Woodside Avenue, Eastleigh which utilises an existing pedestrian footbridge over M3.
- ⚡ In the spring, the footway between Hamble Lane and Netley along Hound Way is proposed to be upgraded to a shared cycle route. This road is well used route by Hamble Senior School pupils and fits in to the Safe Routes to School strategies along Hound Way Hamble between Butlocks Heath/ Netley Abbey and the school.
- ⚡ In east of Southampton, the Bursledon Road controlled crossing is nearing completion at the junction with Warburton Road. This encompasses provision for cyclists to cross.
- ⚡ On 4th January, a Sustrans party cleared brambles in woodland alongside Abbey Hill, Netley, in order that a ground survey can be undertaken by Southampton City Council and the route of this part of NCN 2 agreed between the different sections of the City Council and Sustrans. There had been objections made by the City Council's own planning officers to a previous planning application made last year for the cycle route by Sustrans due to concerns about the impact of the route on woodland and insect life that may be present in the area. A fresh planning application for a revised route that is hopefully more acceptable is to be submitted.
- ⚡ New streetlights are being installed along wide Lane between Parkway station and Lakeside in set back position ready for new footway/ cycleway to go in.

## Active Transport

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Pete Brunskill

An Active Transport Roadshow was held at The Bargate / Bargate Centre on Saturday the 10th of January 2004 to promote sustainable travel, good nutrition and the need to undertake more physical activity. The event was organised by Southampton City Council on behalf of Solent Transport and the Southampton City NHS Primary Care Trust. Nearly 6,000 people participated in the event. Innocent Smoothies came from their London base in a 'Dancing Grass Van' and handed out 1,500 free drinks, 1,500 free samples of healthy food were sampled and 7kg of fruit consumed. The Active Options team conducted 126 fitness tests. Exhibitors gave out thousands of leaflets on cycling, walking and public transport. David Lloyd Leisure gave away 150 free day passes. The Jazz Band played on all day. A Civic Function hosted by the Mayor was well attended by many opinion formers including, Alan Whitehead MP.

## Events

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### February 2004

**Mon 9th** Southampton Cycling Campaign meeting

### March 2004

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup>** Southampton Cycling Campaign meeting

### June 2004

**12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>** National Bike Week

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup>** Solent Coasts Cycling Challenge . The challenge is to complete a 66-mile circuit around beautiful sections of the Hampshire coastline and the Isle of Wight in a single day (more information in next issue)

**Sat 12<sup>th</sup>** 9th Winchester Bike Fair & Cycle Cavalcade

### September 2004

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>** Car-Free Day

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>** Winchester's 8th Alternative Transport Day

Other events at [www.hants.gov.uk/cycling/events.html](http://www.hants.gov.uk/cycling/events.html)  
Let us know about your events (see back page for details).

# Get in touch

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**Chairpersons** Pete R 023 8034 0261  
 Izzy 023 8077 1689 / [izzy@southamptoncycling.org.uk](mailto:izzy@southamptoncycling.org.uk)  
**Secretary** Angela 023 8055 4715  
**Membership** 39 Swift Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 9FP

**Want something raised at a meeting?** Call Pete R or email [agenda@southamptoncycling.org.uk](mailto:agenda@southamptoncycling.org.uk).

**Newsletter articles and letters** in plain text and preferably by email to [newsletter@southamptoncycling.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@southamptoncycling.org.uk), or on a floppy disk or typed to SCC Newsletter, 41A Pentire Avenue, Southampton, SO15 7RT.  
Deadline for April/ May issue is 19<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

**Events listings** to [events@southamptoncycling.org.uk](mailto:events@southamptoncycling.org.uk) (date, time, place, short description and contact details please)

And finally, to keep our meetings on track, how about getting that winge out of your system by emailing [winge@southamptoncycling.org.uk](mailto:winge@southamptoncycling.org.uk)



Meetings at 19:45 every 2nd Monday of the month at Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Road.  
**See you on 9<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March!**

This newsletter is available online at [www.southamptoncycling.org.uk](http://www.southamptoncycling.org.uk)

## Membership application

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Join us and help make a difference!

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Annual fee (please circle)                      £10 Waged / £5 Unwaged

Return this form with your fee to SCC Membership Secretary,  
 39 Swift Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 9FP

Cheques payable to **Southampton Cycling Campaign**, please.