

Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

April 2010

Welcome to the April 2010 Newsletter.

Thanks to all our contributors for making this another full issue! If you would like to send anything for the next (June) newsletter, please note the copy deadline is **20 May**

Angela



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

12th April 7.30pm Campaign Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Rd

17th April all day CTC/Cyclenation conference, Portland Building, University of Portsmouth (plus ride on Sunday 18th) – SEE PAGE 2

10th May 7.30pm AGM, Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Rd

14th June 7.30pm Campaign Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Rd

Details of Bike Week events in the June newsletter

FILL THAT HOLE – WITH SOME FLOWERS



An Oxford artist has been highlighting the problem of potholes on Britain's roads by planting brightly coloured primroses and heather in them. Graphic design student Pete Dungey says he started 'Pothole Gardens', part of a project called 'Subvert the Familiar', not only to gain the attention of the local council, but also to highlight the state of the roads around the country. Other cyclists are welcome to join in – Pete invites you to send him photos of pothole gardens to his website

http://www.petedungey.com/2009_02/project_pages/pothole_gardens.php

And if you do, don't forget to log the pothole on CTC's website

<http://www.fillthathole.org.uk/> so that the local highway authority can get it fixed.

Dilys Gartside

CTC/CYCLENATION CONFERENCE

This is organised in association with Portsmouth Cycle Forum and takes place on April 17th at the Portland Building, University of Portsmouth, which is easily accessible from the railway station. A number of Campaign members will be going so you are welcome to join us. The cost is £20 for the day, including lunch. To find out more look at the CTC or Portsmouth Cycle Forum websites and you can download a booking form or contact me as I have several spare. There are also plans for a social ride on Sunday 18th.

Lindsay Bluemel

CITY CENTRE BIKE PARKING

I intend to draw up a list of sites in the city centre where additional sheffield stands would be welcome which I will submit to Dale for consideration. Top of my list will be outside the Sir James Matthews Building (where the stands removed several months ago have not been replaced (despite a request from me that they be) and in the "amphitheatre" space outside Waterstones in the West Quay Development. Dilys and I were recently on the receiving end of a vociferous verbal attack from a woman who said we had "ruined her lunch" by locking our bikes to the seats - in the absence of any other suitable place - even though our bikes did not prevent anyone using the seats. She said we should have used the stands at the top of the slope which was not possible because a) they were full and b) Dilys finds walking painful at the moment. We also suspect that the West Quay railings have been designed specifically to prevent bicycles being locked to them.

PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC ORDERS: RUBY RD & LYON ST

Ruby Road

Southampton Cycling Campaign submitted an objection to a proposal to remove the **northbound contra flow bus and cycle lane**. Following the rejection of our objection, I made a site visit to assess the implication for cyclists of losing the contra flow lane and listed these in a letter to the Highways Department. My main concern was that students at Itchen College and Sholing Technology College living north of Bursledon Road would no longer be able to cycle north up Ruby Road and cross Bursledon Road into Bath Road at the pelican crossing; they would have to use Whites Road, turning right into Bursledon Road and then left into Bath Road. I pointed out in my letter that a safe route would be replaced with a dangerous route.

Fortunately the Highways Department accepted the validity of our concerns and responded with an amended proposal which would see Ruby Road become **NO ENTRY at the southern end, with a cycle bypass**. I have consulted with a number of Campaign members and we are agreed that this is an excellent solution and I have written again to the Highways Department expressing approval.

Lyon Street

We also objected to a proposal to reverse the traffic flow in Lyon Street from east bound to west bound. This was rejected but the Highways Department accepted the need for easy cycle access to the Royal South Hants and said they would designate a section of footpath as shared use so that cyclists could access the hospital without using Lyon Street. We have accepted this and will not be submitting a further objection.

BITTERNE ROAD WEST/BULLAR RD JUNCTION

Bitterne Road West is an essential route for cyclists and one of the most dangerous in the city. The gyratory is not cycle friendly and consequently most cyclists avoid it by doing something illegal eg using the footpath or turning right out of McNaghten Road. Local cyclists had great hopes that facilities would be improved at this junction as part of the recent road works but, although facilities for pedestrians were improved there is still nothing to assist cyclists.

I have written to the Highways Department asking why there have been no improvements for cyclists, but have, as yet received no acceptable response.

Lindsi Bluemel

CYCLING CAMPAIGNING IN CHILE

Even those who don't speak Spanish will find the Santiago de Chile cycling campaign's website (www.furiosos.cl) entertaining. For those that don't speak Spanish, here are a couple of excerpts:

First, some selections from their cyclist's dictionary:

panniers. Bags specially designed to be attached to a bicycle, with the aim of carrying about 50% more than is really necessary.

autocracy. Absolutist government which demands the use of one single vehicle: the car.

cycle lane. (a) Strip for cyclists, at the side of carriageways or verges, which results from the widening or adaptation of either of these surfaces. The intended segregation is highlighted or signed, but is not reinforced by the same separating elements as cycleways. (b) Element of highway infrastructure often confused by motorists as a car park.

unicycle. (a) Half a tandem. (b) Bicycle for minimalists.

pedal. (a) Lever which moves a mechanism by pushing with the



foot. (b) Together with the saddle and the handlebar, the point of physical contact between the bicycle and its rider, thanks to which the former acquires movement and which may bring about a revolution.

dog. An animal, the best friend of man and the worst friend of the cyclist. The origin of its aversion towards our noble vehicle is unknown, but it is speculated that it is a genetic alteration produced by the toxic emissions of motor traffic across the planet. If a dog starts to chase a cyclist, the options are: stop and wait until it desists, or stop and then rapidly escape, but never attempt to hit it or you will lose balance and fall off.

Another page:

CYCLE TRACKS EXTEND ROUTES IN SANTIAGO, BUT CRITICISMS OF THEIR DESIGN INCREASE

Monday, 28 September 2009

Of 1200 km of cycleways initially promised, it was announced, with great fanfares and jubilation, that 690 km would be built by the year 2012.

Of the 161 km constructed, the majority are cycleways of inferior design and implementation.

The newspaper "El Mercurio" of Santiago de Chile said:

"There is a diametrically opposed evaluation between authorities and cyclists' movements concerning the increased use of the bicycle in the new cycleways of cities, especially Santiago. To such a level, that the discord is not just about quantity, but mainly in the matter of the quality of the designs."

Related to this is a video ("Uy, el ciclista, uy") of the construction of cycleways. The commentary is funny but largely superfluous. ("Weon" or "huevon" is roughly equivalent to "stupid bastard")

John Heath

STREETTREAD – SUSTRANS ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT

StreetTread success in 2009:

2009 saw literally thousands of Sotonians take part in StreetTread walking and cycling activities! Highlights for me included the CycleMagic Roadshow, the Big Bike Celebration in June, St Denys Primary School's BikeXtravaganza in July, the Big Summer Walk in August and the extra 10's of adults and children who have learned to ride a bike for the first time at events throughout the year.

Events and Talks:

A lot of events are difficult to finalise until much closer to the time, but we've already got a few pinned down for 2010:

- Please see programme below of walks for planned led health walks (Jan – Jun 2010).
- Active Travel talk for BTCV – St Andrews Church – Tuesday 23rd February (By booking through BTCV only.)

- Motiv8-14 Cycle Session – From the Quays – Saturday 13th March (for participants of the Motiv8-14 group only)
- Volunteer-led cycle ride from Chamberlayne Leisure Centre – Sunday 11th April (still TBC!) – Contact natalie.martin@sustrans.org.uk for more information.
- CycleMagic Roadshow – Cycling for all abilities – St Denys Community Centre: Thursday 22nd April (By booking only. For more information and to book: please contact Natalie)
- Greener Living Exhibition – Sunday 25th April – a few StreetTread volunteers are kindly giving up their time to represent Sustrans and promote cycling at this event in the New Forest. Thank you! See http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/visiting/what_s_on/greenerliving.htm for more information about the event.
- Beauty and the Bike – Thursday 13th May – the Adelaide Health Centre – support, advice, retail-therapy and a bicycle try-out arena for people who would cycle with a bit of encouragement! Open to Adelaide Health Centre and NHS Trust Headquarters staff only.
- The Big Bike Celebration 2010! – Free, fun cycling activities, open to the public - 10:00 – 17:00 – Riverside Park – Sunday 13th June. If you are not already involved in helping out or participating in the event in some way, and would like to be, please get in touch ASAP! Otherwise, hope to see you there. Bring the family!
- We're also supporting: Recycled Cycles' bike maintenance and lesson stand at Kingsland Estate on Thursday 18th February (public event)

StreetTread Activities and programmes:

- We aim to continue to provide cycle training for beginner and improver cyclists from the CLEAR project for asylum-seekers and refugees.
- StreetTread is developing a programme of cycling promotion for pupils and staff at the Redbridge Community Sports College in Millbrook, including National Standard cycle training and British Cycling-led off-road cycle rides, and a trip to Calshot's Velodrome.
- The Polygon School is also benefitting from their in-house bike mechanic, trained via StreetTread. Peter is delivering bike maintenance classes to a group at the school throughout the term. The boys will also take part in off-road bike skills training and a mountain-bike ride before the summer holiday!
- StreetTread is assisting Hightown Youth Club with their Ride not Fight project, by providing cycle transport and a bike for the cycle ride leaders. Ride not Fight aims to benefit young people in the Thornhill area by developing teamwork, a sense of belonging and achievement, and promoting healthy lifestyle, using cycling activities.
- We would like to provide more training for adults this year. With four project partners and volunteers now trained as National Standard instructors, we have the opportunity to offer one-to-one and small group training for over 18's! If you would like to know more, contact natalie.martin@sustrans.org.uk. Please remember that StreetTread's target areas to work with are: Weston, Thornhill, Bevois & Bargate, Outer Shirley, Portswood & St Denys and Swaythling.

- Southampton City Council and Southampton Community Healthcare were successful in their bid to host a Southampton Cycle Challenge in 2010! StreetTread will be helping the challenge by providing some of the many cycling activities that will take place. Workplaces in Southampton will be invited to take part in the Challenge, competing head-to-head for some great prizes. A CTC project officer should be in post by April. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more, contact natalie.martin@sustrans.org.uk.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation:

StreetTread has been putting together a few case studies of beneficiaries' stories in order to show how it is positively affecting people in Southampton and to encourage others to take part. It's been fantastic to hear how walking or cycling has helped people in so many ways. Some should hopefully be published in Sustrans' main newsletters, published at head office in Bristol.

We have been contacting beneficiaries to the project with questionnaires to find out exactly how their physical activity levels and travel habits have changed since their involvement with the project. Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit will analyse the information and produce a report in due course.

Website

There is now a direct link to the Active Travel Southampton webpage! It's www.activetravel.org.uk/southampton.

STREETTREAD Healthy Walks in Southampton
January – June 2010

Regular walks:

Lordsdale Greenway walk
09:30 Tuesdays (TERM-TIME ONLY)
Meet at the entrance to Lordsdale Greenway on Warren Avenue, to left of the Ice House Pub.

Mansel Park walk
09:30 Thursdays
Meet in the Mansel Park Pavilion (MP3).

Weston walks (not run by StreetTread)
Contact Jean Rogers on 02380 830246 for more information on these Weston walks

One-off walks:

Fools Day walk on The Common - 1st April
Meet at 10:30 outside the Hedfords Urban Wildlife Centre. A good excuse for a healthy stroll and some FREE refreshments!
Wheelchair-friendly

Royal Easter Walk - 6th April
Meet at 10:50 at the Victoria Road entrance to Royal Victoria Country Park for a seasonal walk in the park with FREE refreshments.
Wheelchair-friendly

The Harefield Easter walk - 12th April
Meet at 12:30 at the entrance gate to Woodlands School. Finishing at the Harefield Hoppers for FREE refreshments!
Pushchair-friendly

For more information on StreetTread walks, contact 02380 515206, or streettread@sustrans.org

Sponsors: NHS, Health trainer, Southampton City Council, Lottery Funded, sustrans

Regular walks:

Lordsdale Greenway walk 9.30 Tuesdays (term time only) – meet at the entrance to Lordsdale Greenway on Warren Avenue, to left of the Ice House Pub

Mansel Park walk 9.30 Thursdays – meet in the Mansel Park Pavilion (MP3)

Weston walks (not run by StreetTread; contact Jean Rogers 023 8063 0246 for more info) 10am Tuesday, Victoria Rd entrance to Royal Victoria Country Park (wheelchair friendly) and 10am Thursdays, car park opposite Southampton Sailing Club on Victoria Rd.

One off walks – all with free refreshments

Fools Day walk on the Common 1 April, 10am outside Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre and Royal Easter Walk 6

April, 10am Victoria Rd entrance to Victoria Country Park (both wheelchair friendly)

Harefield Easter Walk 12 April, 12.30 at entrance to Woodlands School, finishing at the Harefield Hoppers (pushchair friendly)

StreetTread | Active Travel Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON CYCLING CAMPAIGN LEAFLETS



Some time ago we designed and produced a new Campaign leaflet with some of you may be familiar with. The leaflet is an A4 sheet with colour text and photos, designed to be folded into three to fit into leaflet dispensers so that it could be distributed throughout the city (libraries, leisure centres etc). However, when I went to have some photocopied recently at Staples, the cost was a staggering **60p** per leaflet! This is way out of our budget. Does anyone know where we can produce the leaflets more cheaply, or, does anyone have access to facilities to enable them to colour photocopy at home/work that we could make use of? We would, of course pay the costs. If so, please let me know.

Lindsi Bluemel

VOTE BIKE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

The general election is coming up and we need our members to get the word out to prospective parliamentary candidates about [CTC's Vote Bike Manifesto](#), which outlines what needs to happen in order to make cycling for transport, health and leisure mainstream. You can read the [Vote Bike Manifesto](#), see what your candidates think and send an email asking for their support [on the CTC website](#). Please take this opportunity to get involved in the future of cycling and to share information about the [Vote Bike campaign](#) with other cyclists. http://www.ctc.org.uk/resources/Campaigns/1002_VB_Manifesto_Design%281%29_.pdf
<http://www.ctc.org.uk/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=5371>

Dily Gartside

iPayRoadTax.com

Road tax doesn't exist. It's VED, or 'car tax'. Motorists do not pay for the roads, we all do, via general taxation. In 1926, Winston Churchill started the process to abolish road tax. He didn't want motorists to think a token payment gave them ownership of the road. Road tax finally died in 1937, says DVLA. Paying Vehicle Excise Duty gives no "right to the road" for motorists (or car-owning cyclists). iPayRoadTax.com products help spread news about what has become a movement.

iPayRoadTax.com

CONTACTS

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SCC Website www.southamptoncyclingcampaign.org.uk

DISCOUNT IN BIKE SHOPS

Don't forget to use your 10% discount, available in most local bike shops. Even more importantly, persuade friends, family and colleagues who are looking to buy a new bike to join the Campaign first, as they will save themselves some money and benefit us at the same time.

Membership application

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.