

Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

June 2010

Welcome to the June 2010 Newsletter.

Thanks to all our contributors for making this yet another full issue!

Angela



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Bike Week events (see page 2 for details):

11th June Naked Bike Ride, Southampton Common

13th June Big Bike Celebration, Riverside Park

20th June Mass Bike Ride, St Andrews Park

21st June Urban rides

23rd June Bargate-Hamble ride

24th June Southampton-Braishfield ride

NO CAMPAIGN MEETING IN JULY

For up to date news see our website, www.southamptoncyclingcampaign.org.uk

AGM 10th May 2010

At the AGM the following were elected unopposed:

Secretary - Eric Reed

Finance and membership - Sue Colbourne

Media co-ordinator - Dilys Gartside

Website manager - Rob Jordon

Newsletter editor - Angela Cotton

Many thanks to these individuals for volunteering to serve another year.

There is much more we could do if there were more people willing to help, even if only for an hour or so each month. If you would like to get involved come along to the meeting on June 10th or speak to a member at a Bike Week event. Do not be deterred because you have no experience of campaigning or think your skills will not be useful - they will be!

Lindsi Bluemel

BIKE WEEK PROGRAMME

Friday 11th June - Naked Bike Ride 6.15 pm Southampton Common (look at website for exact location and more details – see also page 3)

Sunday 13th June - Big Bike Celebration 10 am - 5 pm Riverside Park (off Woodmill Lane and Manor Farm Road). A day of bike-related fun for all the family. Lots of free activities and prizes to be won.; try out all sorts of bikes and take part in one of the led rides. Lots of cycling related stalls, quiz and other activities Sunday 13th June

Sunday 20th June - Mass Bike Ride and picnic 11 am at the Peace Fountain in Andrew's Park (north end of central parks, at bottom of London Rd), mainly on cycle routes and some on road Bring your family, friends and neighbours; decorate your bike if you wish; fancy dress optional A loop through town to Mayflower Park then back up the parks to the Peace Fountain. Suitable for all abilities. If parent/guardian is happy that children are competent on their own two wheels, they are more than welcome, as long as under 18 year olds are accompanied by an adult who is responsible for the child. Decorate your bikes and yourselves if you wish! Do join us with your picnic lunch afterwards (maybe 1pm). Just turn up

Lyn lynbrayshaw@dsl.pipex.com 023 8048 7879

Monday 21st June - Urban Rides 6.30 pm, various starting points - come along to Big Bike Event and let us know where you would like to cycle in the city and we will plan the routes; meeting up for refreshments in the city centre. Discover traffic free/quiet routes around the city

Wednesday 23rd June - Ride to Hamble 6.15 pm at the Bargate; alternatively, 6.45 pm at Woolston Station. Gentle ride suitable for all abilities. Almost all off road on level tarmac paths. After refreshments in Hamble, return journey arriving back in Southampton by 10.30 pm. Lights advisable. Optional return by train.

Thursday 24th June - Ride to the Newport Inn, Braishfield 6.30 pm at the Cowherds, Southampton Common. Suitable for experienced cyclists; lights essential

There are many other events in the South Hampshire area, including cycle dance (yes, really) in Portsmouth and rides led by experienced guides Winchester The best way to find out what's on near you is to look at the Bike Week website.

www.bikeweek.org.uk

NAKED BIKE RIDE

Folks, in case you needed reminding this year's Southampton Naked Bike Ride takes place on June 11th. As ever, the meeting place will be the east side of Southampton Common, next to Highfield Road. Meeting time 6pm, departure 6.30pm, ride length 6 miles which - at our leisurely pace - will take about 1 hour. Bring picnic snacks and drinks to relax on the Common while it's still warm, then join us for more celebrations at The Hobbit into the evening.

For those who are new to the ride... this is a peaceful, imaginative and fun protest against oil dependency and car culture. A celebration of the bicycle and also a celebration of the power and individuality of the human body. A symbol of the vulnerability of the cyclist in traffic. The world's biggest naked protest: 50+ cities and thousands of riders participate worldwide, including more than 3000 in the UK in 2009, of which 150 rode in Southampton!

Dress code is 'bare as you dare'. That means nudity is not compulsory, but many go completely naked. Go as bare as you feel comfortable doing.

Will I get arrested? Very unlikely. Simple nudity is not a crime and no-one has been arrested at any UK ride over six previous years. In Southampton the police have been completely accepting of full nudity, and in London and Brighton, bike-mounted police have even helped with traffic control (clothed!). Indecent or lewd behaviour will not be tolerated so keep it clean.

Full details of the Southampton ride here:

<http://www.worldnakedbikeride.org/uk/southampton/>

Volunteers wanted, clothed & naked, riding & non-riding

We'd love to make the ride even better than previous years, but need volunteers to help. For example, with a couple of non-riding volunteers we could provide a 'cloakroom' facility so riders could leave belongings at the Common, instead of lugging them around on the bike. We hope to have a changing tent where more sensitive souls can have a little privacy while stripping off. We'd also like a clothed rider to follow the back of the ride, just to make sure no-one is left behind. Please, please 'volunteer' your friends or yourself to help out with these tasks. Emails please to southampton@worldnakedbikeride.org.

DEPARTING CHAIRPERSON'S WORDS

After three years as chairperson I have decided to step down, although I will continue to write to the Council on issues of concern and respond to letters in the Echo. Unfortunately no one offered to take on this position at the AGM, so we are currently without a chairperson. If you think this is something you could do, please come along to our June Meeting and find out what is involved. Meanwhile, members will take turns at chairing the monthly meetings and Eric (secretary) will deal with correspondence.

My three years as chairperson have been enjoyable although somewhat frustrating as progress towards a cycle friendly city seems unbearably slow. We have had some disappointments, notably over the Winchester Road cycle lane which local residents use as on-road parking, an unsatisfactory crossing in Hill Lane and extensive road works in the Bitterne Park area with no facilities for cyclists despite endless letters and discussion with the Highways Department engineers. Most local cyclists are unhappy with the London Road scheme and we are concerned that work on a similar one in Bedford Place is going ahead. Despite several requests, no-one from the Highways Department will discuss our concerns with us. We still have no safe cycle routes between the city centre and Southampton Central station and routes have barely improved in the east of the city.

However, it is not all gloomy. Many Campaign members were involved with the Connect2 lottery bid, publicising the benefits of the route locally and persuading friends and family to vote for it. The bid was successful and work is well under way on the waterside pedestrian and cycle route which will join Horseshoe and Northam Bridges. This will allow cyclists to avoid Empress Road, which has always had rather too many HGVs to be considered a safe route for cyclists (although it is marked as a cycle route on the City Cycle Map) and the move here of the First bus depot will make it positively dangerous. We must campaign to get a ramp for bicycles, pushchairs etc over the railway line at St Denys Station as this will allow safe access to the Connect2 path from the Portswood area.

We have also successfully opposed two Road Traffic Orders, one to close Above Bar to all vehicles after 10pm on Friday and Saturday evenings and the other to remove a contra-flow in Ruby Road, Bitterne, details of which were in the April newsletter. The Campaign joined with many others opposing the police proposal that Lovers Walk should no longer be lit after dark and, fortunately, this ill-considered idea was withdrawn. Many members supported the campaign by Warsash cyclists for a reclassification of the Hamble path to allow cycling and it seems that this is likely to be successful

Lindsi Bluemel

Also: have just received news that there will be a mass Sky Ride in Southampton on 25th July - the city centre will be closed to all motor vehicles to allow the local population to enjoy the streets in a traffic - free environment.

HAMBLE PATH UPDATE

First of all thank you to all of you for your support for this campaign, and in particular to those who have completed User Evidence Forms for Hampshire County Council.

At the last count there were 187 forms submitted. This is more than for any other disputed path in Hampshire. Over the last few months we have been in contact with councilors and police, started publicizing the dispute, campaigned for the removal of the “No Cycling” signs, researched the ownership of the land along the route, established the legal position as best we can, contacted landowners along the route with a view to getting voluntary agreement for cyclists to use the path, researched the history of the path, and started working with Hampshire County Council to resolve its status.

Our current understanding of the legal position is that it is not a criminal offence to cycle the path unless you are cycling with reckless abandonment. Anyone cycling the route should be aware that they **may** be committing a civil offence of trespass against the landowner unless they could show that cyclists have a right to cycle the path either under common law or under the principle of presumed dedication. We consider it unlikely that a landowner would attempt to prosecute anyone for trespass.

Publicity

The story has been regularly covered by www.Locksheathpeople.co.uk

We have had some initial coverage in the Western Wards Gazette followed by a front page article in their online version. There has been one article in the Echo. We have had some film footage taken for possible follow up by local TV if the dispute escalates. Thank you to all those that took part in the photo and film shoots down by the ferry .

Police

Initially the police were involved in discouraging people from cycling. Their involvement included putting up no cycling signs, meeting with local residents at the northern end of the path, carrying out surveys of the number of people cycling and speaking to cyclists. After a lot of discussion and much correspondence with local police and the Chief Constable they have backed off completely. They have removed their inflammatory signs and have indicated that they will only get involved if people cycle dangerously. Since their signs came down there seems to be less friction between walkers and cyclists.

Councillors

Most councillors seem to be generally sympathetic apart from one who was strongly against cyclists using the route. Since the publicity there is more willingness to explore options for changing the recorded status of the path. We understand that council officers have been asked to look into establishing a voluntary dedication for part of the route.

Land Ownership

We have been contacting landowners along the route and so far we know of only one who objects to cyclists using the path. Contrary to what was initially assumed most of the path is probably owned by the Crown and not Hampshire County Council. It is worth noting that many of the adjoining properties along the northern end of the path have private rights to

walk, and to take animals and vehicles along the route. This would include bicycles and indicates that the Council's "No Cycling" signs were somewhat misleading.

History

Some interesting details have emerged especially regarding the northern end of the path. For example there was a spring near Brooklands and people used to come from Southampton in carts to collect water from it, just north of Brooklands farm there is an area which was used as a beach for the public to swim in the river, and we have heard that the path was made up to the current road by Fareham Borough Council. We are trying to ascertain if this is true and if it was at ratepayers cost.

"No Cycling" signs

The misleading and inflammatory Police signs have been removed. A council sign at the northern end of the path has now been removed, leaving just the privately erected Brooklands Historic Park sign, which does incorporate the words No Cycling and a small symbol to that effect. The council signs at the southern end of the path remain. This is absurd since the southern end forms part of the National Cycle Network and the County Council licenses the ferry to carry bikes. In the days before outboard engines when the ferry was a rowing boat, bikes used to be carried in the bow of the boat. The council maintains that until the recorded status of the path is changed they cannot do anything to indicate that they accept cycling. Universal Boatyard have erected signs showing the route of the path over their land. They describe this as a footpath and have put up "No Horse riding" signs. If any of you do decide to cycle the route PLEASE show extra care when passing through the boatyard.

Voluntary Dedication

This would require agreement of all the landowners along the route and is the Council's preferred option. Unfortunately, because of the probable objection of one particular landowner this unlikely to be successful. The council is unwilling to pursue voluntary dedication of part of the route unless there is a clear exit to a public highway. In many ways dedication of the path would be an ideal outcome and we are continuing to talk to the council to try and address their concerns.

Reclassification of the route as a Restricted Byway.

There are a number of ways of doing this. One option is redesignation under the principle of presumed dedication through continuous use for a period of at least 20 years prior to the use being called into question. This would almost certainly involve a public enquiry. The legislation seems heavily weighted in favour of landowners, which is one reason why CATS has taken a long time to decide to proceed with the application.

Designation of the route as a Cycle Track (joint pedestrian and cyclist use).

This seems an appropriate use of the legislation introduced in the 1980s. It is the Highway Authority who must make the application, private individuals cannot. Any objection (there would be at least one) has to be referred to the Secretary of State for a decision. It may be that the criteria for the decision would be more favourable than for Reclassification. Our requests to the County for them to investigate this option have so far led to no action

Cyclists Along The Shore (CATS)

SOUTHAMPTON CYCLE CHALLENGE

Businesses are being urged to sign up for the Southampton Cycle Challenge – a free competition to encourage people to take to their bikes and discover the joys and benefits of cycling.



The Southampton Cycle Challenge will see organisations competing to see who can get the most staff to cycle for just 10 minutes or more, from Monday 14 June to Sunday 4 July 2010.

Participants will log their cycling online, with spot prizes for individuals and team prizes for the teams that get the most staff cycling. With plenty of prizes and come and try cycle skills sessions at workplaces, there are lots of incentives for everyone to get on their bikes and have some fun!

For more information and to register, visit www.southamptoncyclechallenge.org.uk.

The Cycle Challenge is free to enter and is for businesses of all sizes, and cyclists of all abilities. We want existing cyclists to encourage their non cycling colleagues to get on a bike – and there are free cinema tickets up for grabs for both if they manage to do so!

The Challenge is all about having some fun and remembering how enjoyable cycling can be. We hope it provides people who don't currently cycle with the encouragement they need to hop back on a bike."

To join the Challenge, all you have to do is:

- Register yourself and your workplace at the Southampton Cycle Challenge website
- Encourage your colleagues to take part
- Log your cycling on the website
- Win lots of exciting prizes!

Participants can cycle anywhere and at anytime and it's just 10 minutes! We can even bring bikes to your offices so that you can all have a go, and you could win a cycle pack if you are one of the first 30 workplaces to register.

We hope that this free initiative is of interest to you and look forward to your support in collectively getting more people active and using sustainable travel in Southampton. Please do not hesitate to contact the Southampton Cycle Challenge Co-ordinator on the below details if you have any questions or require any further information.

Thea Bjaaland, Challenge Co-ordinator, 07816 391 079 thea.bjaaland@ctc.org.uk

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES SURVEY

Southampton University is leading a national study on transport, with a particular emphasis on cycling and walking and are conducting a survey which I have just completed. It is part of a lottery funded project called The iconnect Study.....Connecting Communities.

Karen Ghali is running it. Her email is k.ghali@soton.ac.uk

She is specifically looking for people who live in Highfield, Portswood, Bevois Valley area but it might be worth getting in touch if you are keen to do it but live outside the area as I don't know if they are doing areas in phases.

The questionnaire is done on paper and sent to you by post. It is done in conjunction with Sustrans and looks at how safe you think routes are, how many journeys you make etc and whether you cycle or walk for travel or recreation etc.

Cara Sandys

CYCLE CRASH MAPS

I am a cycle safety campaigner based in the City of London.

I have prepared a set of maps which shows the location of every crash in Great Britain that resulted in death of, or serious injury to a cyclist for the period 2000 to 2008.

The map shows the location of the crash and some details of the crash. The mapping was first produced for London and the London Cycle Campaign use it in negotiations with local authorities.

You can access the map for Southampton via:

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Ted Reilly

CTC COMMUTER SURVEY

CTC would like to find out more about your commute to work, in order to help encourage cycle commuting by addressing barriers and improving conditions. The survey is designed for all commuters - not just those who currently cycle to work - so please invite commuting friends and family to take part. The survey only takes a few minutes to fill in and responses are anonymous. Click here to launch the survey:

<http://www.ctcsurvey.org.uk/index.php?sid=96348&newtest=Y>

NHS CYCLE SURVEY

Does the NHS help and encourage nurses to be healthy? A major review of health and wellbeing in the NHS was published at the end of last year. It recommended a raft of measures to help NHS staff be healthier, including making it easier to cycle. Six months on, Nursing Times would like to know whether your Trust supports nurses in living a healthy lifestyle. Please help Nursing Times investigate this important issue by sparing a few moments to complete the survey: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AFKFRB94C>

Dilys Gartside

KEEP POSTIES ON BIKES

Royal Mail's outgoing chief executive, Adam Crozier, confirms that Royal Mail plans to replace almost all of its bikes with electric trolleys that will be shipped out to neighbourhoods by van.

CTC believes Crozier's assertion that posties on bikes violate health and safety regulations is untrue. His comment that the increasing weights of postal deliveries necessitates new delivery technologies ignores the potential to use cargo bicycles and tricycles, already used in other European countries and by courier companies in Britain - for instance DHL and FedEx.



Road safety: this plan would have dire implications for road safety by replacing cycles with vans. As the number of vehicles increases, our roads become less safe for cyclists. Royal Mail is legally obligated to protect the health and safety not just of its workers, but of the general public. It appears that they have failed to recognise this when citing health and safety as the reason behind this decision.

Environmental: in order for the government to meet its commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, it must take concrete steps to address the emissions from road transport. As an organisation owned largely by the government, Royal Mail should be committed to working towards that goal, and replacing bicycles with vans will not help.

The government's Active Travel Strategy: increasing cycling safety is a goal of the government's new Active Travel Strategy, which government bodies such as Royal Mail should uphold. It is possible that the government may change, but the commitments of these policies are so important to our nation's future that they will likely stay.

Take action!

Are you a postal worker who rides a bike? Please email campaigns@ctc.org.uk with your thoughts.

CTC has an online campaigning tool, which allows you to generate a letter to Royal Mail, which you can edit, print and send to their office. They will collect the letters and deliver them **by cargo bike** to Royal Mail HQ. See their website [ctc.org.uk](http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=170&ea.campaign.id=6262) or <http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=170&ea.campaign.id=6262>

RECYCLE THE ISLAND

Saturday 25 Sep

Have fun and raise fund for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance



There are two routes – blue route 15 miles, red route 50 miles

The sign up address is <http://www.hiow-airambulance.org.uk/post.cfm/recycle-the-island-2010#eventRegistration>

Wendy Eldridge, tel 07917 808424, www.bagitup.org.uk

Email: wendy.eldridge@bagitup.org.uk

Blue route – 15 miles



Red route – 50 miles



BOOKS

(NB this information was sent by the publishers, Penguin, so is not unbiased ... If anyone has read either book and would like to submit a review, please feel free!)

It's All About the Bike: The Pursuit of Happiness On Two Wheels

Robert Penn



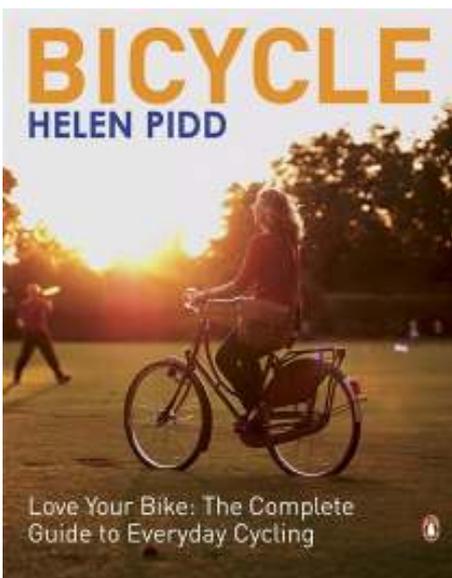
“Robert Penn has ridden a bike most days of his adult life. In his late-20s, he pedalled 40,000kms around the world. Yet, like cyclists everywhere, the utilitarian bike he currently owns doesn’t even hint at this devotion. Penn needs a new bike, a bike that reflects how he feels when he’s riding it – like an ordinary man touching the gods. So he has designed and built his dream bike. He’s got an artisan in Stoke to hand-build a bespoke frame; he’s travelled to San Francisco for the perfect wheel, from Padua to Provence to find the perfect components – parts that set the standard in reliability, craftsmanship and beauty. En route, he tells the stories of the science, history and culture of bicycles, extracting pertinent and quirky stories – the role of the bicycle in women’s liberation, the marvel of the tangent-spoked wheel – that explain why we ride, and why this simple machine remains central to humanity in the 21st century.”

ISBN: 9781846142628 / 1846142 628

Bicycle

Love Your Bike: The Complete Guide To Everyday Cycling

Helen Pidd



“A guide for ordinary, non Lycra-wearing people who happen to cycle or want to start.

It’s a friendly book for people who cycle to work, to the shops, into town or to the countryside, for all those who are fed up with traffic jams and late trains, who can’t be bothered to go to the gym, but want to get some exercise while doing their bit for the planet.

Bicycle teaches you how to stay safe while on the road – and have fun and look good while you’re at it. It will help you find your dream ride and stop someone stealing it, and includes a whole chapter on tackling a commute by bike.”

ISBN: 9781905490530 / 1905490534

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.