

Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

February 2012

Apologies for late arrival of recent newsletters, due to a variety of problems beyond our control – here's hoping this one will arrive in time for the Feb newsletter.

Many thanks to all contributors. It's good to have Lindsi back in action.

For up to date news on Southampton Cycling Campaign check out the website:

www.southamptoncyclingcampaign.org.uk Copy deadline for Apr: 16 Mar please.

Angela

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13th Feb 7.30pm Campaign Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Rd with Daniel Hopgood (civil engineer with Highway Design Engineers Mott MacDonald) as a guest speaker on the topic of Old Stoneham Lane (see page 2)

12th Mar 7.30pm Campaign Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Rd with Jayne Rogers from Cyclenation (see page 4)

RIDES FOR ALL

Following withdrawal of Council funding for Local Sky Rides, last Autumn Lindsi and I started monthly RIDES FOR ALL, the object being to keep on board our baby-bikers but also to grow our Campaign membership so that we can confidently state to Councillors that we speak for hundreds of local cyclists. Membership subs were due on 1 Jan and numbers so far are encouraging as folk learn how much we are doing and achieving.

On a sunny mid-Jan Sunday, 22 riders set out from Mansel Park to explore the Test Valley via Lee Lane, up Hoe Lane to North Baddesley and enjoyed a lovely welcome at Chilworth Manor's fireside before returning through Chilworth village, Toot Hill and the new cyclepaths through Adanac Park – a gentle 18m.

Our next ride is planned for 12 Feb but we need more support ride leaders to accommodate this success in participant numbers.

Dilys Gartside

MIKE'S ACCIDENT

Campaign Chairperson, Mike Charlton, was recently knocked off his bicycle when cycling to work at Hursley by a vehicle failing to stop at a red light. Fortunately Mike's injuries were not too severe but his bicycle suffered serious damage. We certainly missed his efficient chairing of January's meeting and wish him a speedy recovery.

Lindsi Bluemel

EDDIE'S RETURN TO IRELAND

Those of you who have been to Campaign meetings in the last year will have met Eddie O'Gara, who efficiently typed and distributed Campaign minutes and contributed his knowledge in many other ways. Eddie has returned to Ireland to further his career and we will miss his liveliness and expertise at meetings. We wish him well for the future.

A volunteer to replace Eddie as minutes secretary is much needed, so please come along to a meeting if you can help.

Lindsay Bluemel

OLD STONEHAM LANE

Old Stoneham Rd is a life link for non-motorised folk wanting to get from Southampton to Eastleigh quickly, yet it is known to be too dangerous for many a horserider, cyclist or pedestrian to attempt it.

Why? Because motorists also see it as a quick fix to avoid nearby Junction 5 M27 roundabout. Motorists have the A335 as well as Wide Lane, running parallel to Old Stoneham Lane, and while cyclists do have an off-road route along Wide Lane they are seriously thwarted at the Airport Bridge roundabout and railway bridge. The A335 is a no-brainer for cyclists so we need to take action now to restore safety to Old Stoneham Lane to attract back the vulnerable users.

Steps have been taken to improve safety such as restricted access at the north end, though determined motorists breach this one routinely. Drainage works in 2008/9 have gone some way to resolving the flooding that beset the lane and resurfacing work at the Southampton end allows cyclists a fair chance of staying seated. However none of these measures prevent the determined speeder who drives as though never expecting to meet himself coming the other way! There is a 30mph limit at both ends of the lane though not at the various blind spots along it where only last autumn a life was lost.

At our next meeting, we are pleased to welcome **Daniel Hopgood** as a guest speaker on this topic. He is a civil engineer with **Highway Design Engineers Mott MacDonald** whose offices are at the north end of Old Stoneham Lane. Dan also runs the Bike Users Group there and I have been made welcome to talk to their employees and deliver cycle training skills there in the past.

Hants County Council are presently reconsidering new safety measures for this lane so come and put on the table your views, ideas and experiences for discussion and lets reclaim this lovely narrow lane for the users it was intended for.

See you **Mon 13 Feb** at 7.45pm at The Friends Meeting House in Ordnance Rd London Rd Soton?

DILYS GARTSIDE NSIQ WWW.CYCLEWISESOUTHAMPTON.CO.UK

QUEEN'S PARK

The one-way system round Queen's Park is unsatisfactory for cyclists, as is Canute Road, a particular problem being the absence of ASL boxes which means that cyclists are always in the inside lane at traffic lights (ie the left turn lane) when going straight on. The loss of the cut through to Terminus Terrace at the back of South Western House has resulted in more cyclists using the one-way system to access Oxford Street.

It was recently announced that the council has received funding to convert Platform Road (the south side of Queen's Park) into a dual carriageway and, presumably, further work will be carried out to improve the roads on the west (Orchard Place) and north (Queen's Terrace) of Queen's Park. This would be an opportunity to improve the cycle facilities in this area and we would welcome the views of any members who regularly use these roads. When the Campaign has received a plan of the proposed works from the Highways Dept we will organise a site visit to identify necessary improvements for cyclists which we will submit to the Cycling Officer. Anyone who would like to be part of a working party looking at Town Quay/Queen's Park/Canute Road please contact lindsibluelmel@hotmail.co.uk

More info in the next newsletter.

Lindsi Bluemel

ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK



With the new shoreline cyclepath by-passing Abbey Hill and an imminent extension on shared use path up to Grange Rd, opportunities for cyclists to explore from Southampton to the 'Royal Vic' are blossoming. A lady entrepreneur has recently set up All Aboard Bikes to hire out sociable bikes such as cargos and tandems and is based on the north side of the Park in The Sidings.

www.allaboardbikes.co.uk

VICTORIAN VIEW CYCLE TOURS is being launched this spring by committee member Dilys Gartside in conjunction with the team at Royal Vic Park. For £15. you will enjoy a guided return cycle tour via mainly quiet roads and cyclepaths from Southampton Common or Woolston to Royal Vic Park, coffee on arrival, followed by a pre-arranged Tour of the 150' Tower with views across Hampshire and the Solent and a well earned lunch in the Cedar Tea Rooms before pedalling home – and all in time to collect the children from school! Much more fun than going to the gym. www.CyclewiseSouthampton.co.uk

There are also Cycle Tours for the Childrens' Fun Days in June and August - so check out the new programme at www.hants.gov.uk/rvcp

Dilys Gartside

WESTERN APPROACH CYCLE ROUTE

Last autumn, we received for consideration the Council's draft plans for installing a new cycle route on the north side of Redbridge Rd and Millbrook Rd as its response to the increasing conflicts between cyclists on the existing south side route and the unofficial lorry park along Third Ave and Second Ave. The north side route has the financial backing of charity Sustrans and is being fast-tracked to meet their deadlines but members have serious concerns about the proposals, not least that cyclists coming into the city from Totton are unlikely to cross to the north side and back again to the south to access the city centre. The north route would use existing roads and pavements which are narrow and hazardous with a couple of unacceptable danger points.

A sub-committee of members spent a November Sunday morning on site studying the proposals and returned our detailed findings and suggestions to the Council's Highways Engineer in charge of the Scheme. We were fortunate last year to have amongst our members our own highway engineer who led this sub-committee and we wish Eddy well in his new life in Ireland.

Dilys Gartside

NEW MORRISONS STORE

Plans for a new superstore on the site of the East Street Centre have been on display for public comment, although the Campaign was not aware of this and therefore wasn't able to comment. It is essential that cycle facilities are considered right from the start and, as Dilys and I are city centre 'cycle wardens' we will endeavour to find out more and keep members informed in the newsletter.

Lindsi Bluemel

CYCLENATION

On March 12th Jayne Rogers from Cyclenation will be attending the Campaign meeting to talk to us about Cyclenation and listen to our concerns and opinions. Cyclenation is a federation for cycling campaigns and bugs and is able to offer support and advice for local groups. For more information about Cyclenation look at their website, cyclenation.org.uk.

Lindsi Bluemel

PORTSWOOD CYCLES

Portswood's much loved bike shop has now reopened as Portswood Cycles/2 Wheel Electric, offering a range of electric and non-electric bikes as well as repairs and servicing of all bikes.

NEWS FROM CTC



On 17th Jan, CTC Campaigns and Policy Director Roger Geffen gave evidence to the Commons Transport Select Committee and called upon it to close the gap between the rate of improvement in the safety of road users and that of cyclists. He had been invited to Parliament to give evidence of behalf of cyclists to the Government's Inquiry into Road Safety. In addition to calling for a greater focus on cyclists' safety, Roger also condemned the Government's decision to allow a ten-year trial of longer lorries. However, he also told the committee that: "CTC is pleased that the Government's road safety framework intends to use a 'rate-based' measure of cycle safety – so that increases in cycle casualties do not create alarmist headlines when cycle use is increasing more steeply".

Roger told the committee that while cycle safety improved significantly over the past decade – cycle casualties dropped by 17% while cycle use grew by 20% (hence the risk per mile cycled has dropped by 31%) this improvement is less than for other road user groups, so the gap between the safety of cyclists and other road users has been widening.

He condemned the decision to allow a ten year 'trial' of longer lorries on Britain's roads, urging the committee to quiz the Road Safety Minister Mike Penning MP on why he decided to expose road users to additional danger from longer lorries. The first year of the trial could see 1,800 of the larger vehicles on the roads. Mike Penning has so far rebutted efforts to ensure that lorries taking part in the trial are fitted with sensors and cameras, or to require cycle awareness training for their drivers.

CTC is calling for an action plan to deliver the Government's aims for more and safer cycling. However, this will require joined up work between Ministers. Some issues fall within the responsibility of Local Transport Minister Norman Baker MP. For instance, the Government's road safety strategy already includes funding commitments for child cycle training, however adult cycle training is also needed to support adults wishing to take up or rediscover cycling later in life. Norman Baker's responsibilities also need to include ensuring that local authorities follow the Government's own design guidance on cycle-friendly road and junction design.

Other issues fall in the remit of Road Safety Minister Mike Penning MP. During the evidence session Roger Geffen also pointed to the importance of strengthening roads policing, improving the design of major roads and junctions, and tackling the threat from lorries. These are all sources of actual and perceived danger, which deter people from cycling. They all need to be addressed if the Government is to achieve its aims for more and safer cycling, with all the associated benefits for our health and that of our streets, communities, the environment and our wallets.



The London Olympics are becoming more of a reality with only months to go before the events start. The Guardian has published a critique of the routes for cyclists wishing to access the Olympic park and its surroundings in east London:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/bike-blog/2012/jan/19/olympics-fans-bikes>

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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.