



Coventry **Cycling** Campaign



Summer 2007

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Summer Cycling with CYCLIC

This summer, CYCLIC, the Coventry **Cycling** Campaign celebrates 25 years of encouraging cycling as a healthy leisure and environment friendly sustainable transport option. You can help add polish to our silver anniversary simply by getting on your bike or joining in any of the Bike Week events we've organised or other cycling events featured in this newsletter. Check out the **Full Cycle** supplement for ideas.

Our regular meetings continue at 7.30 at the Council House, members, cyclists and friends are welcome to join us on Monday 11th June, Monday 9th July, Monday 13th August and Monday 10th September. For more details, visit www.coventrycyclist.org.uk or ring George on 024 7645 2437 or Brenda on 024 7644 3398.

Cycle Budi



together and organise something amongst themselves.

Following our article about getting more experienced riders to support newbies via www.bikebudi.com, Tony Benn (024 7683 2032), the Cycle Training Coordinator at Coventry Council has agreed to keep contact details of would-be leisure riders who find the road club and/or CTC rides too quick or long. In the hope that people looking for the same type of ride can get

Bike It in Coventry



We know that millions of children want to cycle to school in this country - yet only 1% do. Sustrans has stepped in to sort this out with **Bike It**, a ground-breaking project which has already quadrupled the number of children cycling to its target schools. **Bike It** is funded by the bicycle industry through its *Bike Hub* fund and is also supported by Cycling England and the Department for Transport.

George Mathews, who is a qualified cycling instructor has just started as **Sustans Bike It Officer** for Coventry and has selected the 12 schools that he will work directly with. Together with Coventry City Council he will be arranging for secure cycle storage to be installed and for safer cycle routes to be developed that will create a more bike-friendly environment around the schools.



George will also be working with Peter Burke (School's Cycling Champion) to explain to children the benefits of cycling in terms of improving their own personal fitness and improving the environment that we all live in by reducing the number of cars around the school. They will also arrange a number of sessions to develop the children's cycling skills and arrange interesting events to encourage children to cycle to school more often and more safely. They are currently planning a number of events at the schools during the National Bike Week which runs from Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th June 2007

Road Killers



Cyclists around the UK continue to be shocked by lax sentencing of inconsiderate drivers. In January this year Mel Vasey, a stalwart of the Birkenhead North End Cycling Club, www.bnecc.co.uk, was killed by a dangerous driver while on his way to a morning club ride with two other riders. His death and his friends injuries have renewed debate about what can and should be done to make the roads safer for cyclists.

Also in January, David Pearce, a Norwich publican who killed top UK cyclist Zak Carr when his car ran into the back of his bicycle was found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment, a fraction of the maximum sentence. The crash occurred when Pearce fell asleep at the wheel, having not slept since leaving Turkey the previous day.

From online calls for 'D-lock' justice, whereby cyclists take the law into their own hands hitting out at *cagers* (drivers) with their D-locks to CTC recommending that sentences for dangerous drivers reflect the gravity of threatening other road users' lives. A more responsible and strategic approach is needed with authorities both promoting and prioritising cycling safety.

Coventry campaigner Brenda Stone has called for life time bans ...*In my opinion dangerous drivers, especially those who kill other people should be probited from driving FOR LIFE. Let them jolly well walk (or cycle – Ed). In these days of "chips" etc it should not be impossible to enforce this, and it would be cheaper than feeding them in prison.*

Our heartfelt sypathies go out to Mel and Zak's family and friends and all those who have lost loved ones or been injured on the roads.

Traffic irritation

As a common cause of irritation for motorists is cyclists riding two abreast. Wouldn't it be helpful for a national safety campaign, to point out that cycling side by side is in fact totally legal, but that to be safe, "singling-out" on narrow roads or bridges might be courteous to motorists?

Following our last newsletter the CTC's **Fill that Hole** initiative www.fillthathole.org.uk 22 hazards have been reported in Coventry, 4 have been reported fixed and the remaining are still in progress. The system relies on the individual reporter to validate the repair, so if you report it, check it's sorted!



Cyclists Belt Up



We all know that cycling is one of the most environmentally friendly ways of getting around town, but the creative whizzes at Velo-re have just made it an even greener option. They have been scouring bike shops, collecting discarded bike tyres and turning them into trendy belts.

Each belt is unique and handmade and comes with a brief history of where it came from and how far it has travelled. The tread bears the scars of every mile, every skid, every stone, although luckily the tyres have been scrubbed clean with the help of Ecover washing powder.

The belts come in two styles - slick or semi-slick - and two sizes (small - 30"-34" and medium - 35"-39"). You can even cut them to the exact size with a pair of scissors. New to the Howies spring/summer 07 collection, they're a snip at £30. Download your free catalogue online at www.howies.co.uk/catalogue

Subs Needed

Paid membership of the Coventry **Cycling** Campaign allows us to reach more cycling campaigners and encourage new cyclists. To increase our influence and encourage more cycling we will be offering a free annual membership to people joining the Coventry **Cycling** Campaign during Bike Week (June 16-24th) and those joining our e-mail distribution list at the Godiva Festival (July 14-15th).



However, members Birch, Boniface, Coleman, Flaherty, Hindmarsh, McGinnity, Millar, Mills, Rosher, Ross, Taylor and Wilcox who receive this newsletter have not contributed for some time and we don't want to lose you! If you wish to continue as Campaign members, please rejoin for free at the events in Millennium Square on June 24th or at our Godiva Festival stall on July 14-15th or send your £5 subscription along with your name, e-mail and postal address to: *The Secretary*, 9 Bromleigh Drive, Coventry, CV2 5LY Or e-mail: George.Riches@CoventryCyclist.org.uk

Cycling Shorts

Campaign members are encouraged to add their support to the following proposals

A proposal for a cycle track between Kenilworth and Warwick University (Main Campus)

www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/projects/project_detail.php?id=146

A proposal for an improved cycle link between Coventry Arena and Wood End

www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/projects/project_detail.php?id=152

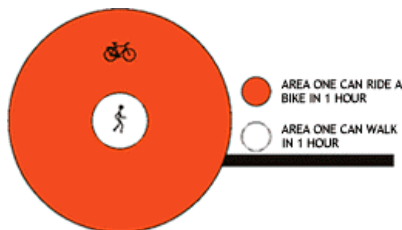
Online petition in support of reinstating a Coventry council ecology officer

www.coventryfoe.co.uk/ecologist.htm

Very few punctures happen when you ride over something. Usually, a small and sharp shard sticks in the tread and then works through to the tube during many wheel revolutions. This is the most common cause of punctures. Before you set off check the tread to find any imbedded shards, if you spot something, carefully pop it out (not into your eye) with the corner of a small screwdriver. Dig a little to make sure you don't leave the sharp tip.

With apologies: We need more city bike stands, a bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tyred.

UK train company GNER is the most cycle-friendly long-distance service operator in Europe, a new study shows. The survey by the European Cyclists' Federation evaluated 32 European train operators on their availability of cycle spaces, how cycle-friendly the ticket booking and purchasing systems were, and how good their websites were for information on travelling with a bike. Meanwhile, Coventry **Cycling** Campaigners who recently wrote to their MP's about cycle-rail integration locally have received standard responses assuring them that *the government is not looking at rail in isolation* in its Transport Planning and *recognises the need for passengers to get to and from the station*.



World Bicycle Relief's newest project involves providing 26,000 bicycles to trained HIV/AIDS healthcare workers and educators in Zambia. The objective is to bring healthcare to patients, patients to clinics, and preventative care education to communities. The program will reach 520,000 adults, orphans, and vulnerable children.
www.worldbicyclerelief.org

Cycle traffic in Brussels has quadrupled in four years and now represents 4% of all journeys. Brussels Minister for Mobility, Pascal Smet says the growth is partly due to improved cycling infrastructure; however he said the snowball effect was the main cause for growth. *The more cyclists you see on the streets, the more new ones decide to follow suit*. Young, highly educated residents comprise much of the uptake in cycling.

HGV?

Campaign member Peter G writes:

Regarding the article on HGVs, I was cycling past Hearsall Common, after the cycle lane had run out, and could see in my mirror that a lorry was coming up behind me. I expected the lorry to slow down because the road narrowed at this point, but to my shock the lorry carried on and went past very close to me.

The lorry stopped at the traffic lights and I politely told the driver that he should give cyclists more room. He said I shouldn't have been on the road. I took the name of the company and his registration number and wrote a letter to Fletchhampstead police station, copying it to the lorry driver's employer.

Not expecting any response, I was surprised to get a call from a police officer saying that she took the matter very seriously, had spoken to the MD of the company but had not yet got hold of the driver.

I was very impressed with the response from the police and would encourage cyclists to report instances of dangerous driving. A few years ago I was nearly hit by a taxi and reported this to the city council who spoke with the driver.

Generally I find the vast majority of motorists to be quite considerate to cyclists but for the odds one that is not there are things that we can do.

Thanks Peter, we are aware that although HGVs are only 1.4% of the vehicles on the road, they account for 22% of cyclist fatalities. (DfT, 2003 Traffic Statistics). Ed.



Cycling India



In January next year, cyclist Anna Cox, who recently purchased a new bike through the 'cycle to work scheme' at Coventry City Council, is undertaking a huge challenge to cycle up to 50 miles per day in India! She explains:

I am going to be doing my cycle ride in India to raise money for a medical charity (Robert Winston is the patron). The charity is called Women for Women and it helps research on women's and children's health issues and increases the number of women working in this field (which is especially important in some cultures where contact with male doctors is problematic for women). If you are able to help by making a donation or if you can pass the details on to anyone that you think might, that would be great. The charity and I would be very grateful and every bit helps!!
Anna

To support Anna who is well over half-way to achieving her fundraising target of £2,800 please visit www.justgiving.com/drannacox

Make Cycling Great

1. **Ride with pride** *You're making a difference!*
2. **Enjoy your riding** *Smile, feel great, radiate happiness!*
3. **Support other cyclists** *Help make cycling better for everybody!*
4. **Do it by bike** *Make those small trips by cycle!*
5. **Follow the road code at all times** *Know the code, stay alert, don't lose your cool!*
6. **Love your bike** *Make sure it's as safe and healthy as your good self!*
7. **Report problems** *Let your local council and police know about any problems!*

From www.can.org.nz

Newsletter Editor Changes?

Following 18 months of producing this newsletter, I have decided to step down so I can enjoy more time cycling and focus on new projects.

Coventry **Cycling** Campaign urgently needs someone like you to volunteer to produce the next edition, due September. If you have a computer or typewriter and some free time please contact *The Secretary*, 9 Bromleigh Drive, Coventry, CV2 5LY or e-mail: George.Riches@CoventryCyclist.org.uk

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to and given feedback to the past six editions I've produced. Paul.



Chain reaction

To help extend our influence, we invite you to share this newsletter; however you received it, with someone else who may be interested.

To contribute to the Autumn Edition (due September) please send stories, articles or ideas to GeorgeRiches@CoventryCyclist.org.uk

www.coventrycyclist.org.uk

