

SPOKES RIDES SPRING 2008

Coordinator Gregory Williams 01227 761736
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SPOKES always welcomes non-members on its rides, but do consider joining!

Sunday 2 March 2008

Romney Romp. Circular ride on Romney Marsh (Flat!).

DETAILS: Ian Rogers (01227 733792).

MEET: 10:35 at Ham Street station

Saturday 5 April 2008

Ride beside a canal from Calais in France.

DETAILS: John Hunt (01227 769035).

MEET: 08:00 at the Ticket office, Dover Eastern Docks

Sunday 4 May 2008

Across the border into Sussex - A pleasant undulating ride of approx 20-25 miles taking in some of the villages around Rye with a nature reserve & castle to finish. Pub lunch en-route.

DETAILS: Chris Beswick (07980 391731)

MEET: (Time to be confirmed; check the website) at Rye station

Sunday 1 June 2008

Ride to Botany Bay Tearoom, which is ran by Spokes member Ali.

DETAILS: Gregory Williams (01227 761736)

MEET: 10:30 at Herne Bay station

14 - 22 June 2008

National Bike Week

Sunday 6 July 2008

Cathedral to Coast. A longer ride near the longest day from Canterbury to Elham and Dover, then returning to Canterbury.

DETAILS: Steve Fawke (01227 830336)

MEET: 10:30 at Canterbury West station

Further rides on the web:

www.spokeseastkent.org.uk

Cars on the run

For those of us who, for many years, felt we were crying in the wilderness when trying to battle against motor vehicle dominated transport policies there is great cheer to be had from current thinking in the EU Commission. According to an article in The Financial Times in December 2007, "Europe's carmakers could face annual fines of up to €13bn (\$19bn) for violating carbon emissions targets planned by the European Commission".

The same article also states that the Commission is also expected to recommend rules on car advertising similar to those now seen on cigarette packs! 20% of the car advert is likely to be devoted to warning us of all the horrors related to car use especially with regard to 'carbon emissions'. For those Spokies, who in their youth dallied with subvertising car adverts (subvertising consisted of sticking on health warning messages over existing car adverts), this is most heartening indeed.

John Shirley

4th ANNUAL CYCLE SHOW
SATURDAY 1ST MARCH
10am - 6pm

**downland
cycles**

- ♦ TRY A WIDE RANGE OF BIKES
- ♦ BIKEABILITY CYCLE TRAINING
- ♦ WHEELBUILDING DEMO'S
- ♦ KIDS CLUB SKILLS DEMO AND HAVE A GO SESSIONS
- ♦ GO-RIDE TEAM EVENTS
- ♦ SPORTIF RIDE IN AID OF KENT WALKING BUS AND THE CRAB & WINKLE TRUST starting at 9am long, medium and short family ride. Refreshments, cakes and spot prizes.

VENUE and ENQUIRIES to Downland Cycles, The Malthouse,
St. Stephens Road, Canterbury. CT2 7JA. 01227 479643
www.downlandcycles.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Spokes,

I think your new editor was somewhat unfair on Canterbury City Council. I was a councillor from 2003 to 2007 and sat on the working party for the Tour de France. CCC rose to the challenge and helped create a 2 week festival around the finale of the end of stage 1.

The event was incredibly well supported and definitely promoted a positive view of cycling locally due to the prestige of the TdF, the 4,000 cyclists who arrived having completed the Cyclosporitif and the musical and children's events ancilliary to the tour.

CCC does support cycling. One example is the Reculver to Herne Bay cycle route which the council promoted and had to extinguish a by-law banning cycling in order to do so.

London is fortunate in having lots of money, a Mayor who is vocal in his support of cycling and unified highways and local authorities. Canterbury is not so fortunate. Kent County Council are responsible for all highways in the district and decisions are made through a Joint Transportation Board, hardly the most logical or efficient method of decision making, particularly when the funds are allocated from KCC.

It would be interesting to have an academic measured survey of the condition of cycling in Canterbury. Members are growing in the Canterbury Cycling Club and Rome Riders. The numbers of cyclists must be reasonably healthy otherwise we would not be supporting three bike shops.

Greater access to the roads by new and less confident riders does need to be addressed. We must not stop campaigning and this is something we can look to CCC and councillors to endorse and promote. -Keep up the good work.

Mike Nee 27 Norman Road Canterbury CT1 3LX

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Find SPOKES on the internet at

www.spokeseastkent.org.uk

Find Sustrans at www.sustrans.org.uk

Beware the man-hole cover!

If one cycles in urban areas, man-holes are a fact of life. They are usually fine when they are first installed, but with the constant passage of traffic, they come to represent two hazards.

Firstly, over time the man-holes become depressed relative to the road surface for a variety of reasons. Either way, the resultant difference in level can be quite sufficient to have one 'bounced out' of one's saddle, with the attendant risk of loss of control.

Secondly, when the man-holes get wet, they become extremely slippery and should be treated like a patch of ice and avoided completely if on a corner. The best course of action is to steer clear of them altogether. Occasionally one will encounter one unexpectedly in unfamiliar territory. Then one must slow down. Reducing one's speed allows a little more time to take avoiding action and will lessen the chance of coming to grief! So keep your eyes peeled for man-hole covers, especially when it's wet.

SPOKES

www.spokeseastkent.org.uk ISSUE 51 WINTER 2007/08

AIR POLLUTION is bad...



and
getting worse
IN CANTERBURY

Spoke supporters wear face masks and ride their bikes to address the problems caused by the serious air pollution levels outside the Payne Smith primary School, Broad Street, in Canterbury

Air pollution is a serious problem locally and internationally. Last year The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution said air pollution was responsible for 24,000 premature deaths in Britain every year. The Chairman of the Commission said that the government had

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SPOKES was formed in 1994 to campaign for better cycling facilities in East Kent. SPOKES works closely with SUSTRANS, Kent County Council, district and parish councils. SPOKES is affiliated to the Cyclists' Touring Club, the Cycle Campaign Network and Euro-Regio Velo.



Designed by Andrew Fenyo 01227 769940. Printed by Minnis Print 01303 840736.

Now's the time to be a SPOKESperson!

Name(s) _____ Win0708

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Annual membership - please tick relevant box:

Individual adult £6 Family/household £10 Senior citizen/unwaged/under 16 £5

Please make cheques payable to SPOKES and send to SPOKES, PO Box 991 Canterbury CT1 9EL.

It has only taken 15 years!! The last consultation and a planning application for the long-awaited Chartham to Canterbury riverside walking and cycling route and the "Horses & Goats" tunnel have just been completed. The riverside route will provide a flat, traffic-free and safer alternative to the existing National Cycle Route 18, which uses Cockering Road and a portion of the A28 in Wincheap. Spokie Sheila Webb has steadfastly campaigned for this long wished for riverside route along with John Grimshaw. Sheila, John and the council are to be congratulated. This superb route will connect up to the Wincheap Industrial Estate through the Horses & Goats tunnel and the new "Connection" housing development on the site of the former telephone exchange. The widely supported proposal is to be voted upon shortly by Canterbury's Development Control Committee.

Long time Spokie friend and supporter John Grimshaw, is set to relinquish his role as Director of Sustrans after 30 years of dynamic leadership. John will continue to lead the charity until a suitable candidate is found to take over the position.

In the mid 1990's, John came up with the idea of creating a National Cycle Network, by linking communities across the country with a safe and attractive network of cycle paths either off road or on quieter country lanes. To ensure that the idea had support across the country, John organised a '1000 mile Millennium Trailblazing Ride' led by Isobel Stoddart. This ride left Inverness in the summer of 95' with c.200 riders (the largest single contingent of riders being Spokies) and continued down through the country following the proposed spine route of the cycle network.

By the time the road worn cyclists reached Dover, one month later, The Millennium Commission must have been convinced by the soundness of the proposal because Sustrans was shortly after awarded £42 million.

Sustrans have since built more than 10,000 miles of cycle routes with over 230 million annual cycle journeys. They are behind the Safe Routes to School Projects and the Connect2 project.

John will continue to be involved in cycling projects and we look forward to working with him in the future.

- ◆ Thanks to the Connect2 funds, the Crab & Winkle Way will be extended by the provision of two bridges and a new cycle route between Clare Road and Station Road leading all the way to Whitstable harbour. More good news is that the developers of the site adjacent to the Invicta Way are keen not only to provide walking and cycling access on to the Invicta Way but to stump up substantial monies for the development of the Crab & Winkle Way!
- ◆ The long awaited cycle route between Reculver, through Herne Bay to Swalecliffe will also receive Connect2 funding along with the re-establishment of the Viking Trail loop by way of a new crossing over the railway near St. Nicholas-at-Wade.
- ◆ A new Canterbury to Bridge cycle route is in the early stages of discussion. This route would serve the schools and hospital currently marooned on that side of the city. A more direct Canterbury to Faversham route via Church Wood is currently being considered. This route would form an alternative "braid" of NCR1. Spokes committee members recently cycled out to consider signing requirements, possible surface improvements, etc. A route linking Herne Bay with the Crab & Winkle Way via Thornden Wood is also at the early stages of consideration.
- ◆ Sustrans is planning to re-number braided routes which have the same route number because they split into two such as NCR18 does in Chartham. We welcome these proposals as they should resolve the current ambiguities that the braided routes can cause.

- ◆ A new Bicycle Users Group has been set up at the university to promote cycling in and around the university. Contact Cecilia Vargas on c.a.vargas@kent.ac.uk for further information.
- ◆ Downlands Cycles (see advert for address) have recently started up a cycling training service. Phil, who is trained in this area, has already helped many people learn to ride a bike.
- ◆ Ruth Kelly has recently launched the £140million cycling fund to provide cycle training provision for half a million children and car addicted adults by 2012. According to the government, this ambitious new drive to boost cycling will help to tackle road congestion and improve air quality as well as create more opportunities for exercise. Canterbury City Council take note!
- ◆ CCC have submitted its planning application CA/08/00058 for the first phase of the coastal cycle route. The first section goes through a site of special scientific interest in Reculver Country Park and will link the Viking Coastal Trail at Reculver with Bishopstone. Get your letters of support in before 15/2/08.
- ◆ More information about route developments, including maps, and notifications about planning applications and consultations, can be found on the Spokes website. Emails are sent out to members to encourage you to write in support of these planning applications / consultations. If you haven't received these emails and wish to, please email or phone our new membership secretary, Ian Rogers with your contact details.

Gregory Williams

SPOKES Hall of Fame



Sheila Webb, having recently been awarded The Sustrans National Award for contribution to Campaigning for Cycling. Thanks to her tenacious campaigning efforts over 15 years, the Chartham Riverside route to Canterbury has just been approved.

Air pollution...in Canterbury

continued from cover

consistently failed to tackle rising levels of chemicals in the atmosphere in cities.

Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK has had a legal requirement to carry out a review and assessment of air quality in their area. For greater detail check out this site: <http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/information.php?info=objectives>

If a local authority finds any places where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area ('AQMA') and adopt measures to reduce the pollution. 218 authorities in the country have declared an AQMA.. In Kent 22 areas have been declared an AQMA, In East Kent, Dover, Canterbury and Birchington have been declared AQMAs because of excessive levels of Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) from vehicular traffic..

The Canterbury AQMA declared in 2006 encompasses parts of Broad Street (from No. 35 to the junction with Military Road) and Military Road (from this point to just beyond the junction with Union Street). In 2006, the council mistakenly thought that it did not need to implement a Local Air Quality Action Plan. Local residents were told by the council that nothing needed to be done because car engines were becoming more efficient and more people would be encouraged to walk and cycle. Not unsurprisingly, air pollution has got worse!! In fact, Rheims Way, North

Lane, and Wincheap are new areas which are likely to exceed air quality objectives this year! Additionally, the Cathedral has recently launched a campaign to raise £50 million to pay for urgent damage to the cathedral, £30 of which is to deal with damage caused by exhaust fumes!

CCC seems to have ignored the fact that people continue to buy larger vehicles, that traffic volumes increase by 2-3% per year, and that there are 1500 houses being built at the moment within a mile of the city centre (nearly all of whom will be car users).

A recent report commissioned by the council indicates that draconian measures are needed to reduce existing car/vehicular use by 42%, if air pollution objectives are to be achieved at Broad Street. One wonders what reductions will be required on the Rheims Way, North Lane and Wincheap? CCC have now realised that they had to put together a Local Air Quality Management Plan. They expect to submit this plan to the Secretary of State for approval by the end of 2008. Let us make sure that this plan ensures that pro-cycling measures are paramount and that effective policies to curb car use are part of the plan. For further information contact Julie Oates on 01227 862 230, julie.oates@canterbury.gov.uk or Stuart Steed on 01227 862228, stuart.steed@canterbury.gov.uk.

Emily Shirley

Chairman's Ramblings

Well, as this is my first contribution to our newsletter I would like to say a big hello to everybody in Spokes. I would also like to thank John Hunt my predecessor for all the hard work he has put into Spokes over the years. He is a hard act to follow but seriously, I am very thankful that he is only a phone call away.

The year 2007 was an interesting year for cycling in East Kent. The Tour de France came to Canterbury. The city was buzzing with excitement and expectation, bicycles that have languished in garden sheds for years were dusted off, tyres inflated and rusting chains oiled. I've never seen so many bicycles of all types and conditions on the streets. But alas like any pantomime or fairy story the magic soon fade away and quickly becomes just a distant memory of a great day. I've often wondered if there are or could be a lasting legacy from le Tour. Well, maybe indirectly there is. In December the Sustrans Connect 2 Project won £50 million pounds from the Big Lottery Fund, for walking and cycling with 42% of the vote. Here are the voting results;

Project Name	Total Votes	Online Votes	Telephone Votes
Sustrans' Connect2	119,348	59,390	59,958
The Black Country	83,556	26,785	56,771
Sherwood	48,822	18,438	30,384
Eden Project - The Edge	34,559	15,758	18,801

We certainly did our bit, (well done everybody) sending out some 2000 leaflets with our autumn newsletter and distributing locally to shops and helping the good folk of the Crab and Winkle Trust canvas for votes. Le Tour certainly helped get bums on saddles let us hope that if nothing else, it helped get us a few more votes and got a few more old bicycles back on the road.

As for this year well, we'll just have to see!