

# SPOKES

East Kent Cycle Campaign

ISSUE 60 SUMMER 2010

www.spokeseastkent.org.uk



## SPOKES NEEDS YOU!

Join one the many rides on offer and come and celebrate afterwards, at the cycling festival in the Dane John Gardens, Canterbury.

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



Printed by Minnis Print 01303 840736

## SPOKES RIDES & EVENTS

(Further rides on the website)  
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ail:rides@spokeseastkent.org.uk

### Sunday 13th June: Big Wheel of Kent See over

► **Sunday 4th July—A longer Ride**  
Route 16 to Dover Castle, then Deal, Sandwich and back via Preston. Meet 10.30 at Canterbury West Station. Contact Steve Fawke 01227 830336.

► **Sunday 24th July—Channel 50 Challenge**  
A charity ride with a choice of 50 and 10 mile routes on the Romney Marsh. Organised by Folkestone Channel Rotary Club in aid of the charity Life Education. <http://www.channelrotarybikeride.org.uk/>

► **Sunday 1st Aug—Two Cathedrals**  
Rochester to Canterbury on a southerly route across the North Downs.

► **Sunday 5th Sept—White Cliffs**  
Folkestone to Dover and back (return by train optional). Meet 10.30 Folkestone West Station.

► **Saturday 18th Sept—Ardres:**  
the Ardres ride has been rescheduled - see website for further details.

Rides in **BOLD** are SPOKES Rides.

### Events

Spokes receives many requests for stalls at events. We are always very grateful for volunteers to help us meet these requests and use these important opportunities to promote and publicise our work, as well as get useful feedback from current and potential cyclists. We'll have a stall at the following events:

- ◆ **12th June 2010**  
Le Tour de Sandiwich, Sandwich town centre
- ◆ **13th June 2010**  
Big Wheel of Kent, Dane John Gardens, Canterbury
- ◆ **20th June 2010**  
Cyclefit, St. Martin's field, New Romney
- ◆ **26th June 2010**  
Bridge school fete

- ◆ **3rd July 2010**  
Hambrook Marshes, Canterbury
- ◆ **9th - 11th July 2010**  
Lounge on the Farm, Canterbury
- ◆ **22nd August 2010**  
Tour de Herne Bay
- ◆ **29th August 2010**  
Sandgate Sea Festival

## Cycle parking at railway stations

Not all railway stations are made equal. Especially so, if you're a cyclist. In the previous issue we noted the improved cycle parking levels that can now be found at Ashford International station. We've counted enough spaces for 228 cycles there. However there are many more stations that either don't have any cycle parking at all, or where the quantities are simply insufficient. Canterbury West station has room for 38 bicycles on Sheffield stands and these are full on a regular basis. As a result bicycles can often be seen chained to fencing as well. Large villages, such as Aylesham, don't have any cycle parking at all. Other large stations such as Ramsgate, which sees approximately a million journeys a year, have pitifully little cycle parking available (12 spaces at Sheffield stands and 8 lockers on platform), despite there being plenty of available space to site them. Spokes believes that the provision of well-sited and sturdy cycle parking is essential to encourage people to choose to cycle for their commuting and other journeys instead of choosing motor vehicles. The current levels don't do much to support this. Contrast this with the provision in mature cycling nations such as The Netherlands where quantities at a single station can be found in the 1000s - that's more than the total we've found in the 40 stations we've looked at in east Kent.



This photo, recently taken by Spoke Sheila Webb in Paris, says it all. Paris is a cycling city par excellence. The smaller French towns and cities are following swiftly behind.

## Light summer musings...

## Kent Community Foundation Grant

Spokes successfully applied for a grant from the Kent Community Foundation and received a grant for £3000. This money has been used to purchase a larger event stand, feather flags, tables and free-standing display boards. Some of the fund will also be spent on new GPS equipment for surveys and mapping work. The smaller stand that Spokes purchased three years ago, will be used for smaller events and in tandem with the new stand at larger events for Dr Bike. Spokes would like to say a big thank you to the Kent Community Foundation. The grant will be, a major aid in our campaigning and cycle promotion work, for years to come.

Dr Bike Happy Cycling!  
skippy slick road tyres probably 100PSI, to 65 PSI. Hybrid semi-slick tyres it's 60-80PSI and for bobbly mountain bike tyres the range is normally 40 tyre wall for the recommended inflation levels. For them up! If you have a pump with a gauge, check the tyre walls a quick squeeze. If they give, then pump Orders are: every time you get on your bike give your the likelihood of getting punctures. So, Doctor's Nice hard tyres will make cycling easier and reduce More often than not, tyres are like Victoria Sponges. loyal and most regular cycling committee members! tyres properly pumped up. Even amongst our most at our events, it is rare to come across a bike with the we're out and about doing free Bicycle Health Checks, ensure that your tyres are always pumped up. When A simple way to increase your cycling enjoyment is to

Dear readers, because of the Big Wheel of Kent Ride items in this newsletter, there has not been enough space to include other interesting articles. Please go to the Spokes website to see these. Go to: [www.spokeseastkent.org.uk](http://www.spokeseastkent.org.uk)

## NOTE

## Now's the time to be a SPOKESperson!

#60

SPOKES, PO Box 991 Canterbury CT1 9EL.

Please make cheques payable to SPOKES and send to

Senior citizen/unwaged/under 16 £5

Individual adult £7.50  Family/household £12

Annual membership - please tick relevant box:

Email .....

Postcode .....

Phone .....

Address .....

Name(s) .....

**downland cycles**  
www.downlandcycles.co.uk  
The Malthouse,  
St Stephens Road,  
Canterbury CT2 7JA  
Call 01227 479643  
Everything Cycling  
Under One Roof  
Spring/Autumn Sportive Series  
Frame Building and Repairs  
Tea/cake to finish  
50 mile circuit  
9.30am Ride-Out  
Saturdays

## Editorial

This is it. Spokes has put a ton of work into organising this year's, the Big Wheel of Kent Event, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010, in association with National Bike Week. It will be a celebration of cycling that will include long and short rides (16 in total) for all types of cyclist and a cycling festival at Dane John Gardens in Canterbury. The event will target both experienced cyclists and those who are new to cycling or who only get on their bikes occasionally. We will demonstrate the health, economic and climate related benefits of cycling and provide an opportunity for all to discover Kent's rich network of Sustrans cycle routes and interesting byways and hidden-away places in and around Canterbury.

There will be three types of ride. Radial (spokes) rides from other towns and cities in Kent and finishing in Canterbury, two circular rides starting and finishing in Canterbury, and two short rides in and around Canterbury. The radial rides will cover distances of between 7 and 35 miles. The circular rides will be 28 and 12 miles respectively. The short rides round Canterbury will use routes that cars can't use. The radial ride starting points will be Maidstone, Rochester, Sittingbourne and Faversham along National Cycle Route (NCR) 1, Herne Bay via Whitstable and the Crab & Winkle Way, Ramsgate and Deal via Sandwich, again along NCR1, Folkestone along Regional Route 17 and Ashford along NCR18. Although rides are free, riders must register, on <http://www.bigwheelofkent.org.uk/>.



- 1. Ashford to Canterbury -**  
**Start point:** Ashford International railway station (domestic side) **at:** 11:00  
**Distance:** 19 miles  
**Ride leader:** Chris Beswick (07980 391731, [ashford-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:ashford-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 2. Deal to Canterbury via Sandwich**  
**Start point:** Deal pier **at:** 10:00  
**Distance:** 25 miles  
**Ride leader:** Brian Hood ([deal-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:deal-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 3. Faversham to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** Faversham recreation ground **at:** 11:30  
**Distance:** 11 miles  
**Ride leader:** Rob Wheeler ([faversham-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:faversham-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 4. Folkestone to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** Marine Parade, Folkestone and Black Horse pub, Densole **at:** 10:00 (Folkestone), 11:00 (Densole)  
**Distance:** 25 miles  
**Ride leader:** Ian Norman ([folkestone-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:folkestone-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))

## Something for everyone: choose from 16 rides on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June

- 5. Herne Bay to Canterbury via Whitstable**  
**Start point:** Hampton Pier **at:** 10:00  
**Distance:** 11 miles  
**Ride leader:** Ian Rogers (01227 749598, [herne-bay-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:herne-bay-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 6. Maidstone to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** Mote Park car park **at:** 09:30  
**Distance:** 32 miles  
**Ride leader:** Jack Allen & Earl Broad ([maidstone-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:maidstone-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 7. Ramsgate to Canterbury via Sandwich**  
**Start point:** Ramsgate promenade **at:** 10:00  
**Distance:** 25 miles  
**Ride leader:** Peter Taylor-Gooby ([ramsgate-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:ramsgate-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 8. Rochester to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** Castle Hill car park **at:** 09:30  
**Distance:** 34 miles  
**Ride leader:** Dominic & Jill DePaolis ([rochester-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:rochester-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 9. Sandwich to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** The Quay **at:** 11:00  
**Distance:** 18 miles  
**Ride leader:** Mark Bayliss ([sandwich-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:sandwich-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 10. Sittingbourne to Canterbury via Faversham**  
**Start point:** Sittingbourne railway station **at:** 10:30

- Distance:** 21 miles  
**Ride leader:** David Rolfe ([sittingbourne-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:sittingbourne-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 11. Stalisfield to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** The Bowl (pub) **at:** 11:00  
**Distance:** 17 miles  
**Ride leader:** James Mount ([stalisfield-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:stalisfield-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 12. Whitstable to Canterbury**  
**Start point:** Whitstable railway station (south side) **at:** 11:00  
**Distance:** 7 miles  
**Ride leader:** Ian Rogers (01227 749598, [whitstable-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:whitstable-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 13. Canterbury circular ride via Goodnestone**  
**Start point:** Dane John Gardens, Canterbury **at:** 10:30  
**Distance:** 26 miles  
**Ride leader:** Beatrice Shire (01227 766782, [goodnestone-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:goodnestone-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 14. Canterbury circular ride via Bishopsbourne**  
**Start point:** Dane John Gardens, Canterbury **at:** 11:00  
**Distance:** 12 or 18 miles  
**Ride leader:** Isabelle Cornet & Andrew Fenyo ([bishopsbourne-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:bishopsbourne-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))
- 15. Canterbury discovery rides**  
**Start point:** Dane John Gardens, Canterbury **at:** 11:30 and 15:00  
**Distance:** 5 miles  
**Ride leader:** Andy McNally (01227 713285, [canterbury-discovery-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk](mailto:canterbury-discovery-ride@bigwheelofkent.org.uk))

## A new bridge and it's NOT for cars!



Earlier in the year a rare - and consequently exciting - event took place. A new bridge was installed. But it's not for motorised vehicles. It isn't even connecting a road. It is a bridge connecting a bridleway by Kingston in Kent that was cut in two when the Canterbury bypass was built some twenty odd years ago. So it's a bridge for walkers and riders of horses and bikes. All the work has been completed now and the bridge is open. So, if you want to try a new bridge on your bike, then head off towards Kingston between Barham and Canterbury. It's quite a pretty bridge too.



## Looking for a route?

Many of us are used to planning our car journeys using online mapping tools such as Google Maps. But what about our rides? Well now there is an online journey planning tool just for cyclists. If you visit [www.cyclestreets.net](http://www.cyclestreets.net) and input your start point and where you want to end your ride, then CycleStreets will respond by giving you three suggested routes - a fast route, a quiet route and something in between entitled a balanced route. CycleStreets will tell you how long the ride will take, how far it is, whether there are any traffic signals and how much climbing is involved. Other cool features include the ability to fly through the route using Google Earth and exporting it to a GPS device. It's still early days so sometimes it might come up with odd suggestions. If it does, just let the developers know by clicking the Quick Feedback link. Happy route planning!

## NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS . . .

### Two new routes for the Isle of Sheppey -

- ♦ The "Sheerness loop" will link four primary schools in the town and the Isle of Sheppey Academy. The nine kilometre trail follows Sheerness sea front/promenade, Barton's Point Coastal Park and the length of the Queenborough Lines, a 3 kilometre former defensive earthwork from Napoleonic times.
- ♦ A scenic 9.5 km route linking Leysdown-on-Sea with the Isle of Harty has also been announced. This leisure/tourist trail will provide a wonderful recreational route close to two important wildlife areas, the Swale National Nature Reserve and the RSPB Capel Fleet Raptor Viewing Point. The £700,000 project is being delivered through a partnership between Kent County Council Regeneration and Countryside Access, Kent Highway Services, Sustrans and Swale Borough Council.

**Re-surfacing works between Lydd and Jury's Gap** are underway - This includes 2.7 km of route improvements to the NCN2 and 5200m<sup>2</sup> of quality re-surfacing to the County border with East Sussex. The £100,000 project is being delivered by Kent County Council Highway Services, Sustrans and Kent Countryside Access and is likely, to be completed, by the end of May.

**Chartham to Canterbury - NCR18** - Works alongside the Great Stour River stalled over the winter months however works will resume this month. It is expected that this superb £400,000, 5km traffic free project, will be completed by the end of the year.

**Reinstatement of the Whitstable Bridges and extension of the Crab and Winkle** way continues to progress. The public consultation process has been completed. Thanks to all SPOKES members who wrote in to express their support and who helped with delivering the consultation letters.

Finally Kent County Council's Cycling Officer **Anna Michalska-Dober** gave birth to a lovely baby girl, many congratulations to her and her family.

*David Young,  
Sustrans Project Co-ordinator South East*

Spokes congratulates Anna, her husband and new baby daughter, too!

## Chairman's Ramblings

According to the government's Chief Medical Officer "National Targets should be set to double travel on foot in England's towns and cities, and to increase travel by bicycle eightfold". Great news and very welcome! Will politicians and councillors finally start to take notice and act? Or will we simply be fobbed off with the usual rhetoric from the anti-change lobby? Probably. Improving our cycling infrastructure and promoting a modal shift to cycling, is essential. With rising fuel prices and little evidence of growth in the economy, we can expect to see more people reducing their dependence on the car. With more people cycling, our roads will become safer. One fairly easy and low cost means of improving our streets is to follow cities like Portsmouth and Oxford and implement 20 mph zones in residential districts, town centres and villages.

While 20mph zones will benefit residential zones and centres, speed limits on main arteries serving town/city centres could remain the same, where appropriate. Designated cycle paths still need to be built in order to connect communities and provide safe routes to schools and work where 20 mph speed limits do not apply!

Reducing speed limits certainly works. What happens in the next few months under the new administration remains to be seen. I only hope that the Conservative- Liberal Democrat Coalition understand the true meaning of sustainability and what constitutes an integrated transport system. Isn't it time we learned a few simple lessons from our more enlightened European neighbours and put an end to this autogeddon? Or shall we simply carry on, regardless of future consequences, because we haven't got the guts to say enough?!

*Steve Fawke*