

Finally thanks for your efforts one and all cycling\_strategies.aspx  
 www.kent.gov.uk/roads\_and\_transport/transport\_policies/

- ◆ Have you say - Kent Cycling Strategies can be viewed at - http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads\_and\_transport/transport\_policies/
- ◆ Kent County Cycle Route Maintenance Regime - Over £300K has been invested by KCC this year.
- ◆ Route 2 - Lydd to Jura's Gap - 2.7 km of resurfacing works between Lydd and the East Sussex border should be completed by the end of this year.
- ◆ Chartham to Canterbury - KCC contractors are on the case! support for this one too.
- ◆ The Crab and Winkle Trust's Whistable Bridges planning application ref CA/10/01293 is live. Please do express your support for Application Ref: SW/10/TEMP/0024.
- ◆ challenging and requires planning permission - please do express support for Application Ref: SW/10/TEMP/0024.
- ◆ 2011. Route alignment along Queenborough Lines has been completed March times and works to this section will be completed March Lines, a 3 kilometre former defensive earthwork from Napoleon's Barton's Point Coastal Park and the length of the Queenborough holidays. The trail follows Sheerness sea front/promenade, kilometre trail were completed over the school summer and the Isle of Sheppey Academy to a proposed new nine Sheerness - Isle of Sheppey - Works linking four primary schools memorable visit for Malcolim.

SPOKES folk for donning their Sustrans hats thus ensuring a Country Park organised by KCC's "excellent" Simon Allum. Thanks to presentation at the highly successful Cycle Kent Event at Shorne Access, PROW and regeneration teams culminating in a visiting Connect 2 and Links to Schools projects around the County. Malcolim also met with Kent Highway Services, Countryside Sustrans CEO Malcolim Shepherd explored Kent over 3 days in June

# A memorable summer

Rumours have recently been circulating that Cycling England's funding is at risk. A campaign is being mounted to ensure that this is not the case. For details, please see: www.savecyclingengland.org/

## Cycling England funding at risk

# SPOKES

East Kent Cycle Campaign

ISSUE 61 AUTUMN 2010  
 www.spokeseastkent.org.uk



Some Spokies attended the first Vélorution 'movement' in Paris, at the beginning of July. Over 2,000 cyclists from France, Spain, Italy and the UK converged on Paris for a three day celebration of cycling. One of the highlights of the weekend was the 4 hour critical mass ride which started at the Hotel de Ville and ended at the Eiffel Tower where a spontaneous party took place. The Vélorution 'movement' first began in Rome, Italy, in 2005. It is rumoured that The Vélorution movement will be coming to London in September 2011.

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



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In celebration of the fantastic Viking Bike Ride's fifth year BHF are introducing an exciting extended route for those wishing to push themselves further - making it a ride for everyone.

The Viking Bike Ride follows the Viking Coastal Trail between Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate and Reculver. If you are doing the longer route it continues along the Oyster Bay Trail towards Swalecliffe and Whitstable where it joins up with the Crab & Winkle Way towards Canterbury. It then continues along quiet roads towards Sandwich and onto Pegwell Bay to the Viking Ship. You can choose the distance you ride. The little ones might want to ride between any of the 4 check points. Then there's the choice of the existing 32 miles or if you really want a challenge try the new 55 mile route. Start from the Viking Ship, Joss Bay, Reculver or Canterbury. Registration 9am, departure at 9.30am. The entry fee—£10 for adults before the day £10 or £15 on the day; £5 for children under 16—includes a free t-shirt. The fee purely goes towards the cost of running the event safely. BHF urge you to raise as much sponsorship money as possible. To register and for more information see: www.bhf.org.uk/vikingbikeride or call 0808 100 2109 or e-mail eastevents@bhf.org.uk

BHF have asked for volunteers to help out with signing from Reculver to Pegwell Bay via Canterbury. We will have to make sure the signage is in place the day before. We may possibly need a sweeper to take down the signs after the event. If you can help, please contact me.

## British Heart Foundation ride on the Viking Coastal Trail: Sunday 17th Oct

Volunteers needed  
 eastevents@bhf.org.uk  
 2109 or e-mail  
 vikingbikeride or call 0808 100 2109 or e-mail

Now's the time to be a SPOKESperson!

Name(s) .....  
 Address .....  
 Postcode .....  
 Phone .....

Annual membership - please tick relevant box:  
 Individual adult £7.50  Family/household £12  
 Senior citizen/unwaged/under 16 £5

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

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## SPOKES RIDES & EVENTS

(Further rides on the website)  
 Co-ordinator: Ian Rogers Tel: 733792 Email:rides@spokeseastkent.org.uk

SPOKES always welcomes non-members on its rides, but do consider joining! All SPOKES rides are suitable for families unless otherwise noted. Rides in **BOLD** are SPOKES Rides.

- ▶ Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct—Viking Coastal Trail for the British Heart Foundation. Various alternatives. For further details see over.
  - ▶ Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov—Tea & Gunpowder Includes a visit to the Gunpowder works and tea at Oare church. Meet Faversham station 10.30. Contact Beatrice Shire (01227 766782)
  - ▶ Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec—Lunch at the Gate Pre Christmas warmer. Shortish route to the Gate Inn, Marshside, for lunch and shorter route back. Meet 11:00 at Canterbury West, or 11:30 at Sturry. Contact Ian Rogers (01227 749598)
- PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FUTURE RIDES**

## Shorne Woods Country Park

The SPOKES stand and three committee members attended the KCC "Cycle Kent 2010" day on June 18th. The purpose of the day was to "showcase cycling to key national and local decision makers", particularly to KCC members and councillors from around Kent, through a number of presentations, display stands and a cycle ride from Shorne Woods to the A2 Activity Park in Kent Thameside. KCC officers did a very good job in organising the day.

The event included presentations from Malcolm Shepherd (Sustrans), Professor Yvonne Doyle (Regional Director Public Health) on the health benefits of cycling and the inspirational Rachel Morris (paralympic hand-cyclist at Beijing 2008).

The SPOKES stand generated a lot of interest and the day provided a good opportunity meet and share with others working on cycling development across the county and nationally. While the general theme of the event was that cycle facilities offer a low cost way of tackling health issues, road congestion and climate change the big question is will the message get through to the decision makers in these financially difficult times? We have since heard of a 66% cut in the KCC budget for cycle related projects, Cycling England with its Bikeability scheme are facing the axe, and there is the ongoing motorised transport mindset.

## Contacting SPOKES

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## Chairman's Ramblings

The AGM will be held as usual at the Friends Meeting House in Canterbury on Wednesday 8th December, doors open at 7pm. We will follow the usual format with guest speakers and presentations by committee members and hopefully by then, lots of good news. We have decided to revamp the constitution which will be put online a month before the AGM. If anybody has any comments on the new constitution or questions please let me have them not less than 7 days before the meeting.

Steve Fawke

## Cycling between Canterbury and Dover

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald (BBMM), working on behalf of the Highways Agency (HA), are 'reviewing current cycle facilities along the A2 between Canterbury and Dover'.

In particular they want comments on:

- ◆ Discontinuity of routes
- ◆ Problems where existing cycle routes join or cross the Highways Agency network
- ◆ Suppressed demand due to lack of appropriate facilities
- ◆ Poor or inconsistent signage of routes

Here is a golden opportunity for us to say to the people who design and build roads what we as cyclists need. As far as I can see any indication of cycle provision on the A2 stops at the Dover end of the Canterbury bypass. Around Canterbury, after the bypass was built, overnight works put in place cycle crossings of the slip roads at Harbledown, Wincheap and Bridge. Most of these direct cyclists into the metre strip (between the white rumble strip and the grass or pebble verge) where there

are diagrams of cycles reinforcing the idea that this is a lane for cycles. I still wonder why there are pictures of a cycle in the metre strip around Canterbury if cyclists are not supposed to be there; and whether cyclists are expected to survive the length of the Bridge bypass, so maybe they will not need a slip road crossing at the far end!

Please email or write to Spokes with your comments by 8th October. We'll be collating any comments you may have and forwarding them on.

Beatrice Shire

**Editor's note: This is an abbreviated version of Beatrice's article due to pressure of space. Read the full version on our website.**

### Letters to the Editor

I would like to thank SPOKES for all their hard work in organising The Big Wheel of Kent on Sunday 13 June 2010. I rode the Maidstone section this year having previously ridden the Dover and Rochester sections. I thoroughly enjoyed my ride this year along the quiet lanes of the picturesque Kent countryside passing through small villages, a country fayre event in Lenham, stopping for lunch in Chilham, before finally ending up in the Dane Jon Park, Canterbury where various stalls and entertainment had been laid on. A well earned rest and a nice cup of coffee in the warm sunshine finished it off nicely. Mmm now which route should I ride next year.....?

David Latham

### NEWS . . . NEWS

#### Canterbury to Chartham riverside route

This cycling and walking route now extends from Toddler's Cove in Canterbury through to Tonford Lane. Construction is continuing beyond here and is currently approaching the A28 bridge. Bridge supports are being constructed to cross over the river from Staples, and to span two smaller ditches. It looks like the bridge from Staples may be installed very soon. The path has also been built out around the former Elham Valley Railway Line embankment, enabling a straight route to be taken. It's expected that the full route will be completed by this autumn. Photos of some of the construction can be seen online in the Spokes blog: <http://www.spokeseastkent.org.uk/blog/tag/canterbury-to-chartham-riverside-cycle-route/>

#### Shepway Cycling Plan out for public consultation

Shepway's long-awaited cycling plan is out for public consultation. If you live, work, or otherwise cycle in Shepway then we strongly encourage you to submit your thoughts as part of the consultation. The plan can be downloaded from: [http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads\\_and\\_transport/highway\\_improvements/current\\_consultations/shepway\\_cycle\\_consultation.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/highway_improvements/current_consultations/shepway_cycle_consultation.aspx). Comments can be submitted by 8<sup>th</sup> October via the same page, via email to [shepway.cycling@kent.gov.uk](mailto:shepway.cycling@kent.gov.uk), or a letter to: Dover & Shepway Transport & Development Team, Kent Highway Services, Henwood Industrial Estate, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8DH

#### Crab & Winkle Way resurfacing

Spokes is pleased to see that a portion of the Crab & Winkle Way cycle route between the Sarre Penn stream and Tyler Hill Road has now been surfaced with tarmac. This is a vast improvement to, more comfortable, and ultimately safer than the broken surface that was in place before. Our thanks go to Kent Highway Services for the work. A photo of the work underway can be seen here: <http://www.spokeseastkent.org.uk/blog/2010/08/31/crab-and-winkle-way-resurfacing/>

#### Queenborough Lines cycle path

A planning application has been submitted and approved for the construction of a cycle path along the Queenborough Lines in Sheppey. Further details can be found by visiting: <http://www.ukplanning.com/swale> Then search for planning application SW/10/1003.

#### Canterbury College cycle parking and shelters

Spokes regularly monitors planning applications across the district and comments on the cycling aspects of them. We're pleased to see that Canterbury College has proposed the installation of more cycle parking. Details can be found on planning application CA//10/01347 here: <http://www2.canterbury.gov.uk/planning/acolnetcgi?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=78548>

Gregory Williams

## Oyster Bay Trail

Report by Sheila Flynn, Senior Transport Planner at Canterbury City Council

New promenade byelaw for cycling in the Herne Bay and Whitstable areas

The new promenade byelaw for cycling in the Herne Bay and Whitstable areas has been confirmed and came into operation on 14 July 2010, one calendar month after the date of confirmation. This means that cycling is now permitted on certain sections of promenade in Herne Bay and Whitstable.

The sections of promenade where cycling is still prohibited are:

- i) Along Herne Bay sea front between Hampton Pier and where Cooper's Hill meets Central Parade;
- ii) West of Longrock, Swalecliffe.

We intend to complete the identified safety and signage works between Beltinge and Swalecliffe by October 2010. This will result in the completion of the first 6.5 mile phase of the Oyster Bay Trail which forms part of Regional Cycle Route 15, linking up with the Viking Coastal Trail. Phase 1 of the Oyster Bay Trail is comprised of approximately 5 miles of promenades, new traffic-free cycle paths (around Bishopstone Glen and through Reculver Country Park) and lightly trafficked residential roads. A further 1.5 miles is signed along the traffic calmed Western Esplanade and Central Parade in Herne Bay which will also benefit from the introduction of a new 20 mph zone. We intend to publish a leaflet which will help to promote phase 1 of the route.

The next 4-mile section of the Oyster Bay Trail will be between Swalecliffe and Whitstable (linking up with the Crab & Winkle Way) and we will start to investigate route options during 2010. We will of course undertake public consultation so that local people can have their say before Canterbury City Council Members make the final decision on the route. We then hope to formalise the issue of cycling along Tankerton seafront one way or the other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Spokes' members for your continuing support. We will keep you informed as to when the public consultation for phase 2 will take place so that you can give your views.

For more information about the Oyster Bay Trail or to view the new byelaw please visit [www.canterbury.gov.uk](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk)

#### Polite request

We would like to respectfully remind cyclists that cycling is not permitted through the heart of Bishopstone Glen. Some people continue to cycle through the wooded Glen which causes problems for people using the footpaths. To help clarify the situation, we will be putting up additional 'no cycling' signs at each end of Bishopstone Glen in addition to some new Oyster Bay Trail signs at the western end of Reculver Country Park.

If you wish to enter a hyperlink straight to the relevant page on our web site, the page is: <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectId=5097>



## Letter Writing Request to 'Build Bridges' on the Crab and Winkle Cycle Route

Plans for the Bridges on the C&W at Whitstable have now been submitted to Canterbury City Council and letters are needed to help 'build bridges'. This new Greenway from All Saints Close to the seafront will double the length of the existing Invicta Way. It will be step-free, traffic-free and encourage a 'modal shift' - (jargon for 'getting on yer bike' and using legs. It therefore offers the opportunity to reduce congestion and improve individual and environmental health.

The Crab & Winkle Line Trust (applicant) is extremely grateful to Sustains (agent) and CCC and KCC for all their support so far. The preparatory work has involved a complete redesign and considerable local consultation. Ecological studies have been carried out as part of the preparation, including surveys of bats, reptiles and trees. Regional Director for Sustrans, Simon Pratt, said, "This new route will be of great benefit to residents of Whitstable allowing people to walk and cycle safely right through to the seafront. The new path will also encourage visitors to the area". Simon said, "It will be necessary to remove some trees and shrubs as

part of the bridge construction work. But many hundreds of new trees will be planted. Independent advice is that this planting will dramatically improve and widen the diversity of plant species and the value of the corridor as a wildlife habitat"

The scheme is being part funded by Sustrans via a grant from the Big Lottery Fund and is also being funded by Kent County Council. The route is part of Sustrans Connect2 scheme, which is developing walking and cycling routes across the UK.

It can appear that letter-writing is only concerned with objecting, but we hope this will not apply here! Please write a positive letter supporting this planning application. This route is about the future and therefore children and young people are likely to benefit most, so please encourage youngsters to write as well. Write to the Head of Planning and Regeneration by 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW, or e-mail [development.control@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@canterbury.gov.uk) and quote CA/10/01293 Ref. Installation of Two Bridge structures.

Robin Townsend  
Secretary

Crab and Winkle Line Trust

For Sam Webb's review of *Cycling Home from Siberia* by Tim Lilwall see the website.