

Words of wisdom spoken at the site meeting for the Crab and Winkle Bridges Application

Because it is a re-instatement and an application on the back of a lapsed successful application then the devil is in the detail and can be written in to the granting of the application.

The commitment of the applicants to replace the removal of what is mostly self-seeding and rogue growth with native species be made a condition and that all screening must be designed sensitively for residents being overlooked and the need not to block or damage the view of those walking or cycling the route.

The application should go ahead for the benefit of all that use the route from Harbour to Canterbury and everything in between.

Maureen Smith MBE

Supplied by Robin Townsend

Bygone Musings

"I remember the first time we had a bike. We went round the dump and the rubbish and the dustbins and found enough to make a bike. But we couldn't get enough money to get some inner tubes. So we stuffed them with grass.

We was riding Spring Lane way when a policeman came along and said, "Let's have a look at that bike. Hm", he says, "you're not riding this bike, it's got no brakes on it." "Oh, yes it has," - we used to put our feet on the front wheel! He took it away from us." Frank Chadwick-born 1915

From Tell us about when you were young: Living in Canterbury and its villages, 1900-1939 by Anne Pope (published by Canterbury Environment Centre, 1987)

SPOKES

East Kent Cycle Campaign

ISSUE 63 Spring 2011
www.spokeseastkent.org.uk



New lift at Canterbury West Train Station. Photo by Gregory Williams

"Beam us up Scottie, away from Canterbury's air pollution". Science fiction aside, moving away from Canterbury is likely to be the only way to get away from toxic air because the council has no plans to reduce car traffic. This is what is needed on a grand scale according the council's air quality advisers, Bureau Veritas, if Canterbury is to meet its legal air quality objectives'.

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.



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Stop Climate Chaos Cycle Ride

Stop Climate Chaos is a nationwide coalition incorporating members from local East Kent groups such as Greenpeace, Oxfam, The United Nations Association, Spokes East Kent Cycling Campaign and Christian Aid. Together, we are campaigning for immediate action for measures to be implemented to dramatically reduce our individual and collective carbon footprints to stop the worst impacts from climate change.

To raise awareness to the seriousness of climate change and related air pollution problems, the local Climate Chaos group has decided to organise a cycle ride for April 16th 2011. The ride will be open to all. It will start at Dover Priory train station at 11am. The cyclists will cycle to Walmer to deliver a climate change petition to a representative from the Conservative MP Headquarters and then return to Canterbury passing by the air pollution hotspots to arrive at the Guildhall at around 4pm, to present a petition to the council to implement immediate measures to address climate change and air pollution before the situation becomes irreversible.

My name is Maureen Smith, Founder and Secretary of the then "Crab and Winkle Line Conservation Group". May I please register with you my wholehearted support for the application for the re-instatement of bridges over Teynham Road and Old Bridge Road, Whitstable.

We currently have a cycle route in parts which can only become whole as per the Local Plan if the two bridges are built.

Without the bridges an enormous amount of Whitstable and Whitstable residents will be denied the benefits of the cycle path which is already in the Local Plan. Especially the young who would have to be escorted to join the path further along. This would be discrimination and exclusion and would definitely disadvantage the less able.

#63

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:

Name(s)

Address

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SPOKES RIDES & EVENTS

(Further rides on the website)
Co-ordinator: Ian Rogers Tel: 749598 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.

Saturday 2nd April - France
A gentle ride along the canals to Ardres.
Meet at 8 am at Dover Eastern Docks. Contact Steve Fawke on 01227 830336.

Saturday 16th April- Stop Climate Chaos Bike Ride
Start at Dover Priory station at 11-ish. Cycle to Walmer then to Canterbury. John Halladay on j.halladay@ntlworld.com [Further details over.]

Sunday 1st May - Forests and Hills
Exploring the beautiful countryside south of Canterbury.
Meet 10.30 Canterbury East station. Contact Ben Knox (01227 462754)

Monday 2nd. May - Crab and Winkle Anniversary Ride
Meet 11am. Canterbury West or Whitstable stations. Gentle ride up to the Winding Pond (halfway point) . Picnic lunch. Contact Robin Townsend on 01227 831546.

Sunday 8th May Pilgrims Tri Hospice Cycle Challenge

70 mile loop Canterbury, Ashford and Margate Hospices or 45 mile loop - either Canterbury/Ashford or Canterbury/Margate.

Entry: £25.00 All proceeds to the three hospices.
[Further details on website.]

Sunday 5th. June - Mystery Family ride. Kingston area.
Bring picnic for lunch stop in gardens of beautiful thatched cottage, drinks provided. Meet 10.30 Canterbury East station. Contact Robin on 01227 831546.

BIKE WEEK in June
From Monday 20th. to Friday 24th. A series short of evening rides in and around Canterbury. Suitable for returning cyclists and some of the rides are also suitable for children.

Tuesday 21st. June. Midsummer Meanders.
Canterbury to Chartham and back on the longest day. All off road! Meet Toddlers Cove 6.30pm..

Contacting SPOKES

[All email addresses are @spokeseastkent.org.uk]

CHAIRMAN : & RANGERS
Steve Fawke 01227 830336
chair@ or rangers@

VICE CHAIRMAN:
Ben Knox 01227 462754
vice-chair@

MINUTES SECRETARY:
Keith Hanna
minutes-secretary@

TREASURER:
Terry Croft 01304 831887
treasurer@

LIAISON:
Sam Webb 01227 738296
liaison@

RIDES CO-ORDINATOR & MERCHANDISING:
Ian Rogers 01227 749598
rides@ or merchandise@

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION & WEBMASTER:
Gregory Williams
membership@, newsletter-distribution@ or webmaster@
01227 761736

CAMPAIGNS CO-ORDINATOR & RANGERS
Adrian Oliver 01795 537555
campaigns@ or rangers@

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Emily Shirley
newsletter-editor@

NEWSLETTER DESIGNER:
Andrew Fenyo 01227 769940
newsletter-design@

Editorial

The city of Canterbury is choking from air pollution. Every year it gets worse despite promises from the council that the situation will improve. It is likely that up to 50,000 people die prematurely in the UK from air pollution per year from lung diseases, heart and circulatory diseases and cancer! See <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmenvaud/229/22902.htm> In 2006, Broad St/Military Road was declared an Area Quality Management Area (AQMA). This means that air quality objectives were not being met and that the council had to by law, to work towards meeting those objectives. This it has failed to do. Now, in 2011, there are **8 more** areas in Canterbury that do not meet air quality objectives. These are Upper Bridge Street, Lower Bridge Street, Sturry Road, North Lane, St Dunstan's, St Peter's Place, Rheim's Way and Wincheap. A recent consultation undertaken by the council will determine whether the whole city of Canterbury should be merged into the existing AQMA, to make one big Air quality Management Area or whether there should be 9 separate AQMAs. See <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectid=478>. The real issue of course, is not the size or number of AQMAs. It is, how is the council is going to reduce car use by at least 50% to meet air quality objectives? This is necessary according to a report written in 2007 by Bureau Veritas entitled Further Assessment. Slip roads, park and rides, more roads etc will not reduce air pollution only getting cars off the road will. The report can be accessed here: http://www.kentair.org.uk/reports.php?report_type=4&report_owner=2&start=0&sub_cat_submit=Show+Reports. Other areas in Kent are also suffering from air pollution including, Dover, Birchington, Faversham and Maidstone. There are around 40 AQMAs in Kent alone and they are spreading! Check out the above website for further details. So, do we all give up? Or does Canterbury and the rest of Kent need a completely new approach to transport planning including measures to dramatically increase bicycle use?

Chairman's Ramblings

I was going to start my first rambling's of the year by looking at the previous year's achievements. Fortunately these details can be found on the website along with details and slides of the AGM and the new constitution, including amendments.

In the next few months we will see prospective councillors canvassing for votes. We intend to send each candidate a set of questions, in which they will have a chance to address specific issues. We will certainly put the results of the survey online.

Should a councillor knock on your door (highly unlikely) put them on the spot! Make sure they understand your concerns and act for you, the voter! Ask them about their views and encourage them to campaign for shared use paths that actually serve communities, safe routes to schools for our children and good links to our town centres. What about Traffic calming and 20 mph speed limits in residential areas, cycle parking and better public transport. Ask them how they are going to deal with growing air pollution problems and gridlock in our towns. What about the associated health problems which can be attributed to years of bad planning and this nations love affair with the car? Lots of questions I know, but there are lots of issues! Sustainable transport in government terms is misleading. You only have to read the terrible and potentially devastating document Growth without Gridlock which was produced recently. Heralded by our county's leaders as a way forward for Kent's future transport needs, is nothing more than a very expensive, quick fix! More roads, bypasses and crossings only ease the problem in the short term and this apparently is sustainable. We need to stop this terminal madness, this unsustainable proliferation of concrete and bad practice before it's too late.

Sadly few councillors are ever likely to grace your doorstep and even less, leave the comfort of their car.

Steve Fawke

NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS . .

Lifts at Canterbury West

Spokes are pleased to see the installation of the new lifts at Canterbury West railway, which now accompanies the new cycle parking recently installed there. The lifts make it easy to take bicycles between platforms without needing to carry them via the stairs. We hope that Southeastern will be installing lifts at other popular stations in the future, such as Canterbury East and Faversham.

Canterbury's Abandoned Bicycle Policy isn't working

In Newsletter 58 we announced that Canterbury City Council had put in place an abandoned bicycle policy. It is with regret that Spokes notices that the policy doesn't appear to be working. Whilst some bicycles have been tagged and removed, we've found that quite a number of obviously-abandoned bicycles aren't getting tagged and those which are tagged aren't being removed after the notice period expires. Specifically, Canterbury City Council's policy states "If the owner does not remove the bicycle within 14 days of notification, the bicycle will be taken into secure storage.". However we've noticed bicycles tagged 10-Dec-2010 still in-situ as we write this at the beginning of February the following year. There are many other bicycles locked up against railings etc. around the city simply because the abandoned bicycles haven't been removed according to the council's policy.

CycleStreets requests your help

In previous issues we've mentioned the CycleStreets (www.cyclestreets.net). It's a website that allows you to route-plan your everyday cycling journeys, as well as offering the ability to photograph all that is

good and not so good about cycling (e.g. cycle parking that you think is great, or poor signing on a route that you think needs improving). For its maps CycleStreets uses data from the OpenStreetMap project (www.openstreetmap.org) collected by volunteers. However there are often new developments and these need to be reflected in that OpenStreetMap data for the map to be completely accurate and relevant. CycleStreets has recently integrated OpenStreetMap's editor into their own website at www.cyclestreets.net/edit, which makes it very easy for you to record any changes you may see (e.g. a new road of houses that's just been built, or some new cycle parking installed). If you see something new then please help to contribute this excellent resource for the benefit of all cyclists.

CycleStreets also received some excellent praise from Cambridge's Julian Huppert MP in Parliament recently when he posed a number of questions on behalf of cyclists to Theresa Villiers MP, Minister of State for Transport. Amongst other things he pointed out how CycleStreets has been developed on a comparatively shoestring budget when compared with the Department for Transport's similar TransportDirect scheme (CycleStreets has spent £28.1k vs. DfT's £2.4m), yet TransportDirect over covers limited areas of the country (Kent not included).

We are also excited to read of CycleStreets's bid for funding in Ordnance Survey's GeoVation challenge. The bid is to produce a website that will assist cycle campaigners nationwide with tracking and prioritising issues. More details can be found via: bit.ly/i5kc4a and www.geovation.org.uk.

Bikes4Africa

Canterbury Sunrise Rotary is supporting The Rotary Club of The South Cotswolds who sponsors Bikes4Africa (along with Books4Africa) to help improve access to education for children in Africa, specifically The Gambia. The lack of reliable transport means that many children, cannot reach school or have several hours' walk arriving late and exhausted. Bikes can transform lives. There are thousands of unused bicycles in the UK so if you have an unused bicycle then please consider donating it. Donations towards shipping the bikes (£10 per bike) and for new tyres and spares also needed. See www.jolerider.org for further details.

The inmates of Dover Immigration Detention Centre work on the bikes. Their set-up is professional - about 10 bike stands where they virtually re-build bikes. Currently, they have re-conditioned 300 bikes ready for the next shipment. Most of their bikes go to Africa - and the specific charity that Canterbury Rotary Sunrise Club, is supporting, is for bikes heading for Ghana.

Ideally, bicycles for donation should be suitable for 10 year olds and upwards, have suspension are complete (do not have missing parts) and are not too rusty.

Next shipment to Africa will be happening as and when. For collections please contact: Penny Morgan - penny.morgan01@virgin.net 01227 831047

CICLOVIA

by Phoebe Allen

Every Sunday and bank holiday (of which there are dozens) the streets of Bogotá are taken over by cyclists, walkers, joggers and skaters. Over 76 miles of roads are blocked off to cars between 7am and 2pm, including La Septima (7th avenue), which is the cities main commercial centre and normally heaving with traffic. This wonderful initiative has been in place since 1974, and today approximately 2 million people (30% of citizens) make the most of the traffic free streets every week.

This weekly event is something that can be enjoyed by the whole family, with the peace of mind that they can relax in a safe environment. The event promotes a healthy lifestyle as people are encouraged to take part in physical activity, without having to pay anything to participate. Even those who do not own a bike of their own are able to join in as bikes are supplied to people free of charge to do laps around the park. If you happen to run into any trouble on route, there are even hundreds of official guardians that tour the streets ready to help anyone that may need it, whether it is medical assistance or a punctured tire.

Apart from the obvious environmental advantages, one of the most gratifying things to have come out of this weekly event is the social integration that takes place. There is a large income divide in Bogotá, with the rich living in the north and the poor living in the south. On a normal day, people from these distinct areas rarely mix, but during Ciclovía this divide doesn't seem to exist. People have the opportunity to socialise with others and make new friends; for many this is the main reason that they leave the house on a Sunday morning.

Ciclovía has captured the attention of the whole nation, with cities such as Medellin and Cali also participating in the scheme. Due to its popularity and obvious benefits, the idea has now also been adopted by other countries in Latin America, such as Mexico and Venezuela. There are many reasons why the event is so popular with the residents of Bogotá, all of which amount to a better quality of life. Despite the many problems that exist in Colombia, the people know how to enjoy life and make the most of what they have; Ciclovía is a great example of this.

Tweet Away- Spokes now tweets. You can follow us on Twitter via @spokeseastkent