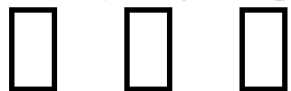


The Coventry Cyclist

The newsletter of CYCLIC, the
Coventry Cycling Campaign.



Spring 2005

Anyone interested in cycling is welcome at our monthly meetings, in the Council House at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month.

Annual General Meeting May 9th 2005

Is your subscription due?

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A short(-ish) Ride
Coventry Cycling Centre
Join us

A Gift!

You will be pleased to know that we sent a Christmas present of £30 to OXFAM to buy a bicycle for a health worker. At that price it has to be a pretty basic bike, but a CYCLIC member who was in Ghana with VSO says that is indeed the cost of a Chinese “Flying Pigeon”, so we hope we have made a contribution to a poor country’s health work.

Who gets our vote?

X ?

Isn’t it dispiriting to see how Transport seems to have gone off the politicians’ agenda?

What’s more the Government has gone back on many promises to improve cycling facilities, and even the Rail Authority seems to be losing all enthusiasm for taking bikes on trains. Hell’s Teeth!

But we must not throw in the towel even if things do look bleak. We still have the chance to encourage our local councillors and parliamentary candidates to put environment-friendly transport back on their programmes

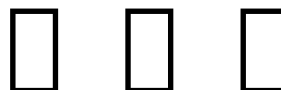
Write, ring, e-mail, visit them in their surgeries, in short play hell, but don’t let “them” get away with encouraging ever more motor transport and so ruining the atmosphere and endangering life and limb... Every one of us can do something!

On a more hopeful note...

How splendid it is to see the bike stands at Coventry Station all full up, even the outside ones! We are not as good as York or even Rugby but we are getting there. Quite soon there will be more parking spaces, we very much hope. Negotiations are in progress, with the intention of putting some cycle lockers in place, and more Sheffield stands, perhaps in the area now used by the taxis

A new therapy?

Some doctors now say openly that exercise may well be a better treatment than tablets in some cases of depression. We always knew there was a therapeutic effect to cycling – now it seems the medical profession knows it too.



Ride to Edinburgh

Some of us will want to join the cycle caravan which is riding from Brighton to Edinburgh for the **G8 Summit**, campaigning for Trade Justice, and Better Aid to the Third World. On June 20th it is hoped the campaigners will meet local cyclists at the car park of the Baginton Mill pub near Baginton Airport, between 4.30 and 5.30pm, from where there will be a Critical Mass ride into Coventry, as far as the Peace House, for refreshments. Some of the long-distance cyclists will stay there overnight. They plan to arrive in Edinburgh July 6th. Some others will go by train – it should be a huge demo and no doubt a day to remember. Info from www.G8cyclecaravan.org

Look out for pedestrians.

Several pedestrians have complained to us about cyclists who ignore the traffic lights, both at junctions and on pedestrian crossings.

While you as a cyclist may be quite confident that you are doing no harm, this practice still gives us a bad name, and really does frighten some members of the public who may not be as nippy as we are. Please keep the rules and be popular as well as environment-friendly!

And while we're on Rules, remember that in the early days of cycling, cyclists fought hard to keep our right to be on the road, as part of the traffic, so please respect the Highway Code the same as the others, (and don't ride on the pavement unless absolutely desperate and only then when there are no pedestrians about).

“Bike to help” is a headline often seen in newspapers, when cyclists are sought to raise funds for various charities. Of course we wish them well, and hope the intrepid cyclists get lots of sponsor money, but even more we hope lots of people will cycle everywhere, to help us **all** and the planet Earth.

Fair Trade

There aren't many bikes on sale but all sorts of other goodies are available inside Holy Trinity Church, Coventry every weekday from 9.30 to 4pm. Tea, coffee, dried fruit, confectionery, all sorts of craft items, cards and gifts.

It all helps to make sure that the producers of these items get a fair share of the profit. Pop in; you might even see a fellow member of CYCLIC.

The shop is staffed by volunteers, and a few more are needed.

To learn more ring Terry Salter on 07811 593319

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One of our biggest problems, says a keen cyclist from Stoke Aldermoor, is the sale of bottled beer! People leave the pubs with their last drink in their hand, and when it is finished they chuck the bottle right where it is going to catch our tyres in the morning!

Parking in Town

After that exhibition of Cycle Parking “fittings”, cages etc in 2004, I did hope there would soon be some extra places to put our machines in the City Centre. Is there any hope??

Eight bicycles can be parked in the space of one car

Couldn't we have a few of those car spaces? This applies also to Schools. At Ernsford Grange Community College recently I had to chain my bike to the railings – not much encouragement for the pupils there, alas.

BIKE EVENTS

Organises cycle events for Sport, Fun, and Fund-raising.

All sorts of rides are planned for this year.

For more info, ring 0870 755 8509.

www.bike-events.com

Spring approacheth
(in fits and starts).

It's time to encourage
more people to get out on their bikes.
Time to clean up the bike, oil the chain,
check the brakes and tyres, and get going.

Tell them: Don't be put off by these timid
types who keep telling you it's dangerous.
Of course it is, but so is coming down the
stairs in the morning, and most of us do that
every day without a second thought.
Motoring is actually much more dangerous
than cycling (just think about it)
And many people do that every day too!

Our party at the Friends Meeting House in
January was very enjoyable; chat and
refreshments always go down well.
Sorry if you missed it.

We ought to do something "sociable" more
often. Let's plan a summer picnic in
National Bike Week!

Volunteer Needed

The Coventry Rotarians have arranged a
week from June 25th, for disabled teenagers,
at Ullswater Outward Bound Centre. They
need a lady (or possibly a couple) to
accompany the group.
Free transport would be provided and
accommodation at the centre, as well as the
chance to join in exciting activities in the
Lake District.
Contact John Hartley on 02476 502333

Advertise here.
Cyclists from all over Coventry and
beyond see this publication!

Only £5 for 2 issues.
Contact Brenda on 7644 3398

Events in 2005



- 29 April – Mon May 9
Ride from Dresden to Coventry

To mark the 60th anniversary of the end of
World War 2, some cyclists are riding from
Dresden to Rotterdam and Coventry as an
act of conciliation, and to raise funds for the
rebuilding of the Dresden Ladies Church.
They are very anxious to meet people from
their twin cities, and hope that some cyclists
will join them on the last leg of their
journey, from Stratford on Avon to
Coventry.

For more information, contact
Philip McGraham, 7683 3060

- **National Bike Week June 11 – 19.**
Its theme: Everyday cycling for Health
and Fitness
Even if you do nothing else, be sure to
be SEEN on your bike that week.
Info on www.bikeweek.org.uk

- **Godiva Festival July 9 – 10**

We hope to be at the Memorial Park with
our information stand, on both Saturday and
Sunday afternoons.
Anyone with good ideas for eye-catching
gimmicks?
If you can volunteer to staff our stand for a
time, please contact George on 7645 2437
But come and see us anyway!

Bob's Rides

22 miles. O/S maps 140 Leicester and Coventry, and 151 Stratford on Avon.

Take the cycle route across A45/A46 at the end of Fenside Avenue to Baginton. Head in the direction of Bubbenhall as far as the Landscape Gardening Depot. Then take the road towards Weston under Weatherley. After passing the Bull pub, keep straight ahead for Hunningham, Snowford Bridge, Long Itchington (village pond) and return. Alternative return route: (Marginally longer) via Offchurch and Cubbington to Baginton

Coventry Cycling Centre

at the Peace House,
311, Stoney Stanton Road,
offers great things for cyclists.

1. A fully equipped bicycle workshop,
2. Reconditioned bikes for sale,
3. Organised Leisure Rides on first and third Saturdays, starting at 1.30pm and back about 4.30pm. Starting again soon. For more information, ring 02476 663031

Chris and Bek and their three little children are now away on a cycling trip in Europe, but hope to be back for the G8 ride in June. This means a few more volunteers are needed on the rides and at the workshop – this is a great opportunity to help promote cycling, which is what WE are all about. You'd also have the chance to learn more about bicycle maintenance, and meet some fellow enthusiasts.

A reminder once again about **lorries**.

Remember, if you can't see the driver, he surely can't see you!
Give lorries plenty of room to turn.

It's not speed, but bombproof reliability. Going by cycle, you know what time to leave and when you'll get there; no uncertainty, no anxiety, no waiting. Travelling at a comfortable pace won't turn you into an athlete, but it will keep you physically active without adding to your daily commitments.

Thanks to Bikefix

CYCLIC

Coventry Cycling Campaign

We aim to encourage cycling as an environment-friendly mode of travel, and as a leisure activity, and to make it safer and better.

We need more members to raise cycling's profile.

For more details, visit our website:

www.Coventrycyclist.org.uk

Or ring George on 024 7645 2437

or Brenda on 7644 3398

To join us, please send your name and address ,

Plus annual membership fee £5

(or what you can afford) to

The Secretary,

9, Bromleigh Drive, Coventry, CV2 5LY

E-mail: GeorgeRiches@CoventryCyclist.org.uk

Do the world a favour – Go by bike