

NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

ISSUE 64

JANUARY 2007

LATE AGAIN

Many athletes are encouraged to perform better by visualisation. "Visualise yourself passing the winning post and you become a winner". I followed this notion at the end of November, closed my eyes and visualised myself writing an excellent December news sheet, but fell asleep, and suddenly it was Christmas. It is said people become like their pets, and since my pet tortoises hibernate I suspect this may be a reason for my seasonal inertia. Perhaps I will have to write the Xmas news sheet in the summer when the tortoises and I are more active, and women do their Christmas shopping. At least I am in time to send you Good Wishes for the New Year and to encourage you to turn your own vision for Tring Cycling Campaign into a New Year's Resolution (of which more, later).

A group of us were awake long enough to spread good cheer for Christmas, as we spent a sunlit Sunday cycling around this area, tinsel-clad, before twinkling into Aldbury for an early Turkey Lunch at the Greyhound. Roger Manley and his grandson, Callum, (7 yrs old, on a Trailerbike) led us on a jaunt of around 10 miles, at a good steady pace that allowed us to feast our eyes on the natural world around us, while working up our appetites nicely for lunch. (Afterwards, though, we all took the direct route home!) Thank you, Roger, for putting this all in place and for getting Christmas off to such a good start.

Now, as we roll into the New Year I'm afraid I must remind you that subscriptions are due, unless you joined after August, so all members whose subs are due should find enclosed a membership renewal form and sae, as well as notices concerned with the AGM. This also applies to members with Email who normally only receive electronic versions.

AGM

Wednesday, February 28th 8:00PM

- This year the AGM will be in the Baptist Church Hall, Tring High Street, opposite the library.
- After the short formal meeting and refreshments, **Emma Norrington, Operations Manager of Groundwork Hertfordshire** will give a talk outlining the work undertaken by this environmental charitable group. Projects she has been concerned with include amongst other things the development of off-road sections of the National Cycle Network (e.g. the Ebury Way in Watford) and the recent completion of a map detailing proposed improvements to cycle routes throughout Dacorum.

If you would like to know more about **Groundwork** and the types of projects they undertake then please come along. This is an open meeting and those attending do not need to be a member of TCC, so invite your friends.

And now for those Resolutions...

This year TCC is approaching a crisis. The recent deaths of Bridget Brown and Paul Burnett combined with both Sue Rowe and Jenny Scholes stepping aside due to the pressure of other commitments has meant that we are short of active members. In addition Brian Bostock our Acting Chairman has made it clear that he will not continue in that role after the AGM.

You might say we are growing thin on top. We're not yet completely hairless, due largely to the continuing enthusiasm and commitment of John B. who, with Brian's clear-sighted prompting, has held together the majority of the work in this last year. John H. has taken up the financial reins and there are still an active number of us who involve ourselves in projects where we can. We do feel, though, that we need a member to come forward who could direct our vision for cycling in the Tring area; who could help us to focus and prioritise, and who could keep us to the task in hand, during meetings. To change the metaphor: we are not rudderless, but without a constant hand on the tiller, we can be too easily diverted from our purpose and must often take new bearings. Are you the person to keep us on course?

In addition, we need people who would be prepared to write for this News Sheet, or who would be happy to communicate with the local press. Would one of you be interested in being our liaison with the Local Authority, or would you read journals and keep us up to speed on national cycling issues which could have a local application? Our family rides have been popular. Would you like to lead one? Or could you plan a display for a stand at a local show? PLEASE – We want to hear from you!

Anne Nobbs

If you feel stirred to action on any of these points, please speak to Anne Nobbs (823971) or John Boielle.

CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS

The following information was received from CTC in response to a request to clarify the legal situation regarding children cycling on pavements, with or without their parents:

When you reached the age of 10 you probably didn't realise you had reached the age of criminal responsibility. Until the age of 10 the law says that you cannot be held responsible for a crime.

Between the ages of 10 and 14 you can be convicted of a criminal offence if the prosecution can show you were aware that what you were doing was seriously wrong. For example, the case of Jamie Bulger, who was killed by two 10 year olds, was based on this principle. The prosecution showed that the two boys knew that what they were doing was seriously wrong and they were given prison sentences.

CTC conclude that although technically it is illegal for children under 10 to cycle on the pavement, in reality they cannot be held criminally responsible and, generally speaking, the police turn a blind eye. However, they do point out that there are public liability issues to consider as well as the possibility of a fine in that, if a child causes damage to another person or their property, then their parents could be held liable and the sums involved could add up quite considerably, and the fact that the damage has been caused whilst committing an illegal act may be taken into account.

ATTENTION ALL CYCLISTS



TRING CYCLING CAMPAIGN

**invite you to a special meeting on
THURSDAY MARCH 15 at 7.30pm
at 83 Dundale Road, Tring
to discuss proposals and any ideas
you have for a Tring and District
Cycle Map.**

We have already got something like this with our "Cycleability" map, and after talking to the Tring Information Officer she made it clear that such a map in "takeaway form" is urgently needed for cycle-tourists in the Tring area (extending at least to the reservoirs, Marsworth, Tring Station, Museum, Wigginton and maybe further).

It should also be noted that the map of the Tring area displayed at various locations in Tring (e.g. Tesco, the Information Office, the library and in car parks) only covers the High Street from Tesco onwards, and even for this only shows two of the many cycle parks in Tring. It should also be noted that none of these are signed, so cycle tourists and even most "locals", have no idea that they exist (e.g. Forge car park, Dolphin Square, Museum, Tesco, Pound Meadow, Community Centre, Cricket Club, and the Pheasant).

For more information ring John Boielle on 01442 822575 or email

john.boielle@virgin.net

OUR WEBSITE

Our website has been improved and updated by Robert Valkass, our **new Web Master**. If you visit www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk you will find archived news sheets, future events, activities, training, defects, links, how to join us, and contacts.

If you have any comments or suggestions then either email Brian Bostock bbostock@waitrose.com or contact me (details at foot of page).

STATION SIGNS

TCC met with Herts Highways at Tring Station to point out that the signs outside the "Royal Hotel" were incorrect and confusing. The path is not segregated and cyclists should not be asked to dismount at the **start** of a cycle path as shown in the first picture below.



The next picture shows changes to the signs made as a result of our intervention.



We are expecting further changes in the signs to indicate that the cycle path does not continue along the pavement outside Railway Cottages. Unfortunately we have not yet found a safe solution for the dangerous junction of Beggars Lane with Station Road.

NEW CYCLE PARKING

These new cycle stands have recently appeared in Tring. Do you know where? And can you spot the mistake? Surely this was not deliberate?



A MESSAGE FROM A CYCLIST ABOUT THEFTS

There have been a number of bike thefts from the new cycle racks at Tring station. I had a £700 red specialized rockhopper taken last week

Whilst walking up & down the racks trying to remember where I'd put it, someone else commented that they had a pair of forks taken from one of their bikes a few weeks previously.

Rather stupidly, I hadn't D-locked my bike - I just had a cable loop type thing".

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Jamie Lynn of **Mountain Mania** says that he can get hold of bicycle locks which give anti-theft guarantees up to £1600. Prices range from £24.99 to \$44.99. The £24.99, for instance, has an anti-theft guarantee of about £500. These are available as D locks and as chains. Jamie says he will give 10% of the cost of one of these locks to anyone producing a Tring Cycling Campaign membership card.

You should contact Jamie if you are interested to ensure he has the one you want in stock. Ring 01442 822458 or visit 10 Miswell Lane, Tring, HP23 4BX

Bus Lanes to be used by cars carrying more than one passenger.

The Department of Transport has just published guidance that could give the green light for cars with more than one passenger to use bus lanes. This information comes from Traffic Advisory Leaflet 3/06 titled High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes. Following trials in Leeds and South Gloucestershire local authorities are now able to implement these schemes. CTC thinks that any benefits from increased car sharing would be negated by increased risks to cyclists, and that cars should not be allowed into bus lanes unless the lane is at least 4 metres wide so that there is ample over-taking room.

Visit our website: www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk

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