



# NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

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## AGM

Our AGM will be at 8pm on Thursday March 6 in the Church Hall behind the Baptist Church, High Street, Tring. As you may know we have been without a Chair for the past year, but Tim Vaughan, Chair of the Berkhamsted Cycle Group, (who is also a member of TCC) has offered to stand as our Chair in the hope that the great co-operation between the two groups can be increased.

There will be a talk by Simon Glover, Cycling and Walking Officer at Bucks County Council, titled "Cycle Aylesbury – its better by Bike". The success of this cycling demonstration town has been a large factor in persuading the Government to increase by eight the money it will give to cycling, (see the statement below).

Everyone is welcome whether or not they are members.

*"On 20 January Transport Secretary, Ruth Kelly announced that the Government will give Cycling England £140 million. The cash will be allocated over the next three years, £20m in 2008/9 and £60m in the following two years, and used primarily to give half a million more 10-year-olds across England cycle training. CTCs Director Kevin Mayne welcomed the news as they have been calling for a serious increase in investment in cycling ever since the National Cycling Strategy was announced 12 years ago.*

*This new funding is very close to the £70m annual budget which Cycling England had called for in its business plan "Bike for the Future". For information on this programme visit [www.cyclingengland.org.uk](http://www.cyclingengland.org.uk)."*

## TO LET



Phil Wareham writes from exile in Milton Keynes:

"These units are at the side of MK rail station buildings and can be rented for £40 per year. There are more at the front and still more to come. Overnight secure cycle parking now becomes a realistic possibility as well 24hr dry parking with assured security against vandalism and theft. I rent a unit as part of my quest to expand my green travel modal options".

It seems to me that it would be excellent if similar units were available at other stations on the same railway line, such as Tring.

## CHILDREN RIDING ON PAVEMENTS

Can we learn from other countries where there is more cycling than in the UK?

The Highway Code in France allows children up to 8 years of age to ride on pavements. In Germany and Poland they are allowed to do so until the age of 10. However in the latter country youngsters between the ages of 10 and 18 must wear a badge indicating that they have passed a cycling proficiency test to cycle on any sort of route. Do you think it would be a good idea if this were introduced in England? If so, then why stop at age 18? Should **all** cyclists over 10 wear a large numbered badge issued after passing a test? I think that the idea of numbering the cyclist is more sensible than numbering the cycle which was the law in Jersey when I was a young cyclist during the German occupation. Please send me your ideas about this.

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### *The Times*

Matthew Parris failed in an attempt to be humorous in his Christmas article in the Times by commencing with: "A festive custom we could do worse than foster would be stringing piano wire across country lanes to decapitate cyclists."

*An email to the editor commenting that this amounted to "incitement" elicited the following response:*

"Thank you for taking the time to write to me about Matthew Parris's article (My Week)

As someone who regularly rides to work and who likes to go on cycling holidays, I shared your alarm, initially fearing that Matthew had it in for me too. But I think it was immediately clear that he was exaggerating for effect - and for a good cause: cyclists, as much as anyone else, must share his determination to protect the natural world from litter and pollution.

I have received many similar e-mails and take note of the heartfelt indignation. You may also have seen the piece that ran in the paper on Monday in defence of the cyclist. While I admire the passion of the cycling lobby, and count myself one of their number, I think we do ourselves no favours when we lose our sense of humour and I hope that you, like me, will continue to enjoy Matthew Parris's excellent writing. That said, two wheels good etc.

Yours,  
James Harding"

## WHY DRIVERS HATE CYCLISTS

Ben Fincham while at Cardiff University suggested that motorists dislike cyclists because of a secret fear of injuring them. He gained this "insight" while working as a cycle messenger. He indicated that drivers know cyclists are vulnerable and would come off worst in a collision with a car, when it is likely the driver would get the blame, and also feel the shame. It is therefore logical that the cyclists who are disliked most are those who behave unpredictably. The most unpredictable and most hated are cycle messengers, the next being so-called "lycra louts". This thesis might have been inspired by too many energy drinks after a hard day as a courier. As my old school master used to say "Discuss".

I note that now he is at Brighton University Dr Fincham is writing a book about cycling lycra louts. I suggest that this will give us lots more for discussion.

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## FUTURE RIDES

**Sunday April 6:** Family Cycle Ride meeting at 1.45 pm outside St Peter and St Paul's Church, Tring.

This ride will be on a flat route aiming to arrive at the new Ivinghoe Tea Rooms about 3pm.

We hope that members of Berkhamsted Cycle Group will meet us there at about the same time, after starting out from Berkhamsted.

**BikeWeek, June 14 to 22:** During this period we will be holding a "cycle treasure hunt". Cyclists will be given a sheet of questions, and start from Tring or Berkhamsted in groups with guides to ride to various locations where they can park their bikes and search for answers to the questions.

There will be more details about this ride in the next news sheet.

Visit our website: [www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk](http://www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk)

We welcome any letters/articles/notices for the next issue.

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