

# Norwich Cycling Campaign

Newsletter 25  
Spring 1997

NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN was formed in 1990 to promote cycling in Norwich and to lobby for better cycle facilities. It is affiliated to the National Cycle Campaign Network.

price  
**50p**

free to  
members!



**Editor's  
column**

*John King*

## PHIL LIGGETT TO ADDRESS SPRING CONFERENCE IN NORWICH!

The good news is that your Campaign is to continue refreshed after its recent troubles. Les Hopkins' role as Co-ordinator was certainly a tough act to follow but capable and willing hands have been put to the handlebars and a new and enthusiastic approach has been generated.

Our move to The Greenhouse will provide a number of benefits. Finances are under strict control but we are very much in need of YOUR ideas for fund-raising.

The Campaign's strength and achievements depend entirely on members input and ideas. Please spread the word among cycling friends as much as you possibly can. They will benefit from their involvement. And so will you.

The Cycle Campaign Network Spring Conference is to take place this year at Wensum Lodge in Norwich. We will host this national event over the weekend of 9 - 11 May.

Phil Liggett will be giving the keynote speech at the Conference. He is the presenter of Channel 4's coverage of the Tour de France and has recently become President of the CTC.

Events get under way on Friday evening with early arrivers meeting at Jurnets bar in Wensum Lodge. Saturday is devoted to the serious matters of the moment including funding, East of England Tourism Strategy, motorbikes in bus lanes, etc. There will be four 'workshops', each run twice, on subjects including Public Presentation, and Local Authority Structure and Responsibility. At 5:30 on Norwich Station there will be Anglia's bike-carrying rolling-stock for you to consider. Evening socialising and eating are expected at Trads in Earlham Road cellar bar. On Sunday morning various social rides will be on offer followed by lunch at the Coach and Horses, Thorpe Road. Full details are available from the office.

We need hosts! If you can offer floor or bed space for delegates for a couple of nights please ring 436311 right away! Thanks.

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## Bicycle repairers and suppliers recommended by Norwich Cycling Campaign members

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Norwich Cycling Campaign's  
office rent so please come and see us soon  
at The Greenhouse in Bethel Street!

**Every  
Saturday  
10:30 - 4:30**

# YOUR NEW CAMPAIGN

## Words from the Chair

**A**s you know, the Campaign has been going through some changes lately, not to mention the crisis meetings and an EGM.

Firstly, and this came through very early on, there is a strong desire to keep the Campaign going – and under the same name (Norwich Cycling Campaign). This we shall do. The more of you who can provide input / help, the easier it will be.

Secondly, we have now moved into office space in the Greenhouse (in Bethel Street), and our monthly members meetings are now held there. These are our main forums for debate on current and possible campaigns, planning and fund-raising issues, and anything else that's relevant. The next one is on Wednesday 16th April at 7:30. Please come if you can.

Now that we've come through the upheaval, settled down again and appointed a committee for the rest of the year, we're in a position to move forward with, and get stuck into campaigning and other activities. The question I'd like to ask all of you is 'What

do you want to see from the Campaign?'

The Campaign belongs to all its members. Our direction and activity must therefore come from you. What do you want to see us campaigning on? What issues do you want addressed? Your input in these areas is essential if we're to be the campaign you want us to be.

**A**n important new initiative is the launch of the NCC Bikeworks on Saturdays (see insert). This is designed to raise funds and bring us into better contact with the cycling public in Norwich. If you too have the competence to wield spanners at other peoples' bikes and like getting covered in grunge, then let us know or come along. Your help will soon be needed!

**A** major event will be when we host the CCN Spring Conference in May (9th -11th). This national event attracts speakers and delegates from all over the country, including, this year, the new CTC president Phil Liggett. Five years ago when we

last hosted a conference the facilities tour ride on the Sunday consisted of lots of 'This is where the so and so is planned for' etc. This year we'll be able to show people the facilities now actually in place, and more. There has been a fair amount of change towards both promoting cycling and providing facilities in the last five years, and its rate is increasing. We need to keep it going that way.

**F**inally, for those of you who don't know me, a few words about your new chairperson:

I'm 31, divorced, and have lived in Norwich for 8½ years. I joined Norwich Union as a computer techie 7½ years ago, and I've been involved in the NCC for about 2½ years. I'm an everyday cyclist – I cycle more or less everyday. It's how I commute, go to the shops / pub / visiting / everything else. I do NOT own a car, nor do I wish to.

I consider cycling not only to be fun, but also to be the best form of general purpose transport there is. I'm also the sort of cyclist who considers riding through central London rush hour traffic at night to be good for giving an adrenaline rush, and the Norwich Century to be a reasonable 6 hour ride (unladen).

I neither wear a helmet nor pull over to let cars pass. I also happen to be vegetarian and a member of the Green party.

Happy pedalling.

*Andy Mitchell*

### MAKE A NOTE OF THESE CAMPAIGN MEETINGS!

16 April  
21 May  
18 June  
16 July



Views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Editor or Norwich Cycling Campaign. News items are reported in good faith and we cannot be held liable for their accuracy. E & OE

# St Clement's Hill Traffic Calming

Over 150 people attended a public meeting held on 7th November 1996 to address complaints from residents. A 700 signature petition had also been submitted to the City Council detailing objections to the scheme as it is.

The proceedings were chaired by Julian Swainson (Chair of Planning) and attended by Rory Quinn (Lord Mayor), Sue Challice (Traffic Management), and councillors John Barker, Domonic Hack, Harry Wilson and Cath Ward.

Problems raised included the increased traffic speed of the Airport Park & Ride bus service and reports of many more minor incidents due to lack of care around the buildouts up and down the road. The Magdalen Road and Constitution Hill junction remains as dangerous as ever.

Many residents were horrified by a planned traffic calming scheme which would modify a conservation area. The plan involves a pelican crossing on Constitution Hill, and improving visibility for Denmark Road,

which has no benefit for St Clements Hill and involves destroying a listed wall on the side of Sewell Park and cutting down at least 6 mature trees!

Simon Dashley spoke of the observed effects of the kerb build outs on driver behaviour. The majority of motorists are slowing and giving way as required but they were not a problem before. It is the minority of 'disrespectful drivers who are not observing the give way signs, and in fact see the scheme as a 'challenge' to drive as fast as possible around the buildouts. He and others would like to see the kerb buildouts removed and road humps put in instead.

A resident asked if the Council would remove the scheme if public opinion was strongly against it. He was assured that they would respond to residents wishes after 'proper' consultation. It was also stated that vehicle speed (including Park & Ride buses) was a matter for the police.

Peter Stiven, (Headteacher of Blyth Jex school) praised the road

narrowing opposite the school entrance and elsewhere as now being much safer for the pupils to cross the road. In answer to bus company objections to speed ramps he said *'The chassis of buses are not as important as the lives of my students'*.

Other suggestions included the possibility of traffic lights at the junction with Constitution Hill and Denmark Road and a mini-roundabout for the Wall Road junction, where poor visibility are major difficulties.

The so-called improvements for cyclists were of no value at all and in fact have made cycling more dangerous due to oncoming vehicles on the wrong side of the road.

Repeatedly it appears that the scheme has failed to address the two accident black spots at the junctions on St Clements Hill and created an accident risk in other parts of the road. Despite some small benefits to pedestrians the overwhelming view was that St Clement's Hill was safer before the scheme was introduced.

**'...cycling more dangerous...'**

**'...residents were horrified...'**

## You need CYCLE - RECYCLE needs you!

**Free food, tea, coffee, beer!**

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Come to the Strip 'n' Sort Sessions – they take place most Sundays and most types of traditional bikes are also available from £25 (with 3 months guarantee!)

**Ring Nigel on Norwich 502188 or 621834 for details**



# NATS

## Consultations Officer Matthew Williams welcomes NATS and seeks your bright ideas

A most significant and exciting document was sent to us earlier this year. As part of the consultation process, Norwich Cycling Campaign has received a draft copy of the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy.

The NATS will greatly affect cycling in Norwich. The new co-operation achieved between City and County is particularly welcome, this consensus also drawing in adjacent District Councils South Norfolk and Broadland.

In my response on behalf of members, I said that we strongly support the changes incorporated into the new draft strategy. In comparison with the previous NATS these changes have taken the emphasis completely off new road schemes ('predict and provide') and entered the sane world of 'demand management'. Comprehensive cycle network is included.

I am particularly pleased to see the adoption at last of the principle of a 'mode hierarchy' with city centre priority to pedestrians and cyclists and non-essential private vehicles (the ones who foul up the bus system) right down at the bottom.

Ambitious targets have been set for changing the 'modal split' for the journey to work, but I believe these are perfectly

realistic in the context of planned measures, indeed I think this approach is the only way towards ensuring the future vitality of our city.

My main reservation concerns the likely shortfall between Government funding and the required budget. Some Campaign members have also expressed doubts about the seriousness of commitment to sound land use policy (exemplified by the Colney Hospital decision) and leading by example (witness the further expansion of the County Hall car park and the City Council's liberal provision of free staff parking).

A copy of our detailed comments on the draft is in the Campaign office. Among other things we have suggested allowing pedestrian area cycling out of core shopping hours, supported disallowing motor bikes in bus lanes and picked up on details like having bus exhausts positioned on the off-side, not into our faces.



I'm sorry, but it was a case of either running into you or having an accident.'

## Other Consultation hits and pieces

I am keen to tackle some of those issues which you have raised in the past and which seem to have been out of the news lately. Please tell me about any that particularly interest you (and mention new problems, too). Write or phone the Campaign office or contact me through the Cycle Feedback Group, the lay-persons' subcommittee of the City Council's Cycle Forum.

I've recently been looking at simple accident remedial proposals (white paint) affecting Nelson Street, Alexandra Road and Park Lane and monitoring the Christchurch Road Cycle Route which increasingly suffers from rat-running traffic. The Toucan crossing on Daniels Road is now installed and working and I am glad to see that it is already being well used!

A simple dropped kerb is all that is needed to provide a safe cyclable link through Adelaide Street by the health centre. But they own that bit of the street so the Council are not responsible for the provision of such a facility. Would any of you members like to persuade the health centre to undertake this?

I'd also like your ideas for the City Centre Cycle Network - what can you suggest?

MW

# Opportunities abound in England's Cycling Country

**N**igel Howard, Phyll Hardie (Broadland Cycling Forum) and Rob Marshall (Norfolk County Council) attended the England's Cycling Country Conference at Centre Pares, Elveden in March.

England's Cycling Country is an initiative launched in October 1996 by the East of England Tourist Board in consultation with local authorities and cycle tourism operators. The initiative puts forward the vision of the East of England as the premier UK destination for cycle tourism for both domestic and overseas markets.

Les Lumsdon (Cycling Tourism Consultant) emphasised that the East of England was in an excellent position to establish itself as England's Cycling Country. He cited the proximity to Europe of the ever-growing National Cycle Network (Sustrans) – the Hull to Harwich section will link in with Dutch Cycling Holidays especially – and the gentle landscape with its quiet country lanes.

The National Byway is principally a Private Sector Initiative, supported by Hovis, and will be a 3,000 mile signed



cycle route based on rural lanes 'reaching the heart of Britain's heritage'. The presenters of this topic emphasised the 'suppressed demand' for cycle tourism (20 million bicycles owned in the UK, only 3 million used) and co-operation with Sustrans National Cycle Network.

Sophy Cushing's presentation for Sustrans was equally entertaining (lots of slides) and the expected 'rivalry' between the two organisations was not blatantly obvious.

Nigel tackled one of the directors of the National Byway at lunch: 'What are you actually selling (to satisfy the sponsors)?' Answer: 'The brand name.'

Kipper Scott of Lines Town gave a presentation of the Hull-Harwich section of the National Cycle Network and Sam Weller a summary of his experiences in promoting Cycle Hire at Reepham Station. There seems to be excellent potential for cycle hire points along Sustrans routes. England's Cycling Country has set up a Norfolk Cycle Hire Network and Cyclists Welcome scheme (stickers available).

The scope for cycle holiday operators is mainly for short breaks and day trippers. Note that the Camel Trail in Cornwall has witnessed an increase in demand from approx. 60-70,000 cyclists in 1988 to between 250-300,000 in 1995 (Shipman, 1995), that is, where a trail provided a demand grows quickly.

Other opportunities exist for cycle rescue schemes, bed and breakfast accommodation and refreshment stops. So there is plenty for all you budding cycling entrepreneurs to think about!

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**Please introduce your friends and colleagues to  
Norwich Cycling Campaign – the more members, the  
greater the benefits for EVERYONE!**

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## Sights, sounds, scent and feel

The Bergh Apton Society have something special lined up for cyclists around National Bike Week time. At weekends between 24 May and 8 June, you should visit the Avenue of a Sculpture Trail at Bergh Apton – it's less than 10 miles into South Norfolk.

Our very own Ingo Wagenknecht (South Norfolk Cycle Forum Secretary) will be among some 40 of East Anglia's most innovative and exciting sculptors who will exhibit their work within the Gardens of Bergh Apton. The event is well planned and supported by Sir Phillip Dowson, president of the Royal Academy of Arts.

There will be a Tactile Garden with sound, scents and texture for the disabled. Cyclists are especially encouraged as the approach roads are quite small.

Other attractions will include a painting exhibition, community and school workshops, stories and songs. Make a note to take your flask of tea and your butties out there for a nice day in the country!

Ingo also tells us that during the winter months the Cycle Forum has scouted and designed four leisure routes and two commuter routes. They have been busy in South Norfolk but as yet have received no funding for the planned Cycle Fair and might have to call it off.

## CYCLE MUSEUM UNDER THREAT

Just at a time when there is a great upsurge of interest in cycling, Harlow Council are cutting the opening hours of the Mark Hall Cycle Museum in Harlow, with the threat of ultimate closure. Redundancies have been made and more are feared imminent.

The Mark Hall Museum is an amazing collection of cycles dating from the earliest hobby-horses and bone-shakers through to one of Mike Burrows' record breakers. Along with the bikes are hundreds of accessories and photographs giving a complete and chronological history of the bicycle since the early 19th century. The display is largely of an astonishing collection by a Mr Collins (of Collins Bicycles, formerly of Old Harlow) and is housed in a superb purpose-built museum. It is situated quite near the Harlow exit of the M11 and is well worth a visit. Opening hours have already been cut so ring 01279 439680 before you go!

If you would like to voice your opposition to the cut-backs and possible closure please write to: Council Leader Mike Danvers, Harlow District Council, Town Hall, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1HJ.

### CATI – Come and Try It

**Norfolk Countryside Cycling Group**  
**Rides for novice cyclists (15 - 20 miles)**

**Saturday 26 April, 2:30pm** Meet at Earlham Fiveways roundabout for a ride to Wymondham. Tea at the Station.

**Saturday 10 May:** Meet at Woodside Public House, Thorpe St Andrew for a ride into Broadland.

**Saturday 24 May, 2:30pm:** Meet at Red Lion, Eaton for a ride to the south of the city.

**Saturday 7 June:** National Bike Week. Please telephone Norwich 435547 for details of today's ride.

**Thursday 12 June, 7:00pm:** National Bike Week event. Car assisted ride from Marsham. Meet in the service road (old Norwich Road) on west side of the A140.

**Saturday 21 June, 2:30pm:** Meet at bus stop, Thorpe End for a ride led by Jan and Malcolm.

**Saturday 5 July, 2:30pm:** Meet at County Hall roundabout for a ride to the south east of the city.

**Saturday 19 July, 2:30pm:** Meet at The Bell, Salhouse for a Broadland ride using Horning Ferry. Tea at Wroxham Barns.

**Rides will continue fortnightly until October.** For the continuation programme or details of any of the above please ring Phyll on Norwich 435547.

## Contacts



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**Hans Hoffbauer** ..... 664206

### **'CATI' Rides Organiser**

**Phyll Hardie** ..... 435547

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### **Norwich City Council Cycle Forum**

**Cllr Eamonn Burgess** .. 611195

**Matthew Williams** ..... 503824

## LOCAL NEWS

### • **BARRACK STREET ROUNDABOUT**

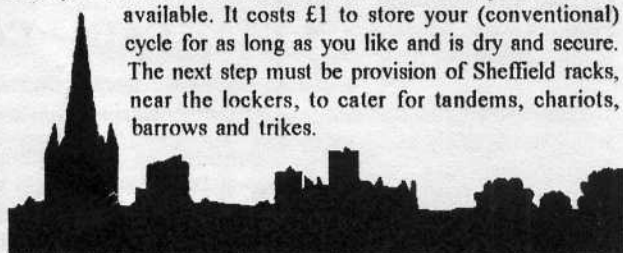
Mark Love at City Hall tells us that the lane markings here are 'experimental'. We have observed that traffic ignores the markings and just goes straight on using both lanes. Cyclists are in more danger as a result. Please write to Mark Love with your comments - we suggest that the left lane should be marked left / straight on and the right lane should be marked as a right turn only. See what you think, then get writing.

### • **St. GEORGES STREET**

City Council Cycling Officer Tim Mellors tells us that the works here are just pavement widening. It will not affect what can go where, and yes - he does know that St. Georges Street is part of the National Cycle Network route. Schemes which adversely affect the Norwich part of the NCN route should not therefore be a problem in the future.

### • **CYCLE LOCKERS**

The cycle lockers at Norwich Station have at long last become available. It costs £1 to store your (conventional) cycle for as long as you like and is dry and secure. The next step must be provision of Sheffield racks, near the lockers, to cater for tandems, chariots, barrows and trikes.



**OXFAM** in support of Ethiopian  
street children

## **Norwich FUN BIKE RIDE!**

Choice of safe pleasant routes (7/15/33/45 miles)

## **Sunday 15 June**

**Start times: 9:30 to 11:30**

**ANDERSON'S MEADOW, Mile Cross**

**Forms from any Norwich Oxfam shop or ring**  
**Andrea Shepherd on (01223) 301317**

**Free Dr. Bike checks courtesy Norwich Cycling Campaign**