

# Norwich Cycling Campaign

Newsletter 28  
March 1998

50p where sold  
Free to members !

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.

## IS IT A BUS ? IS IT A TAXI ? IS IT A BIKE ? NO, IT'S A LORRY!

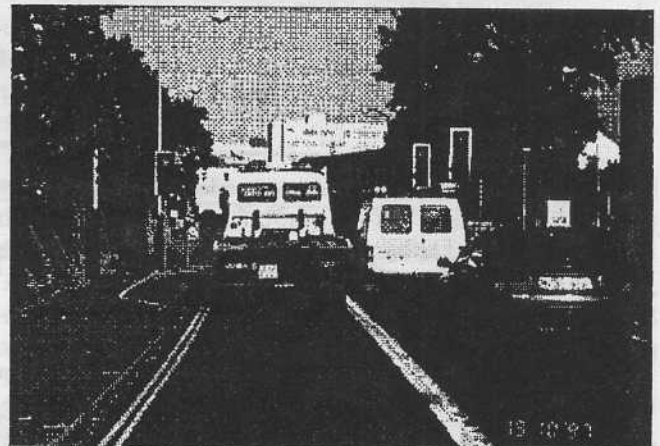
Hands up those cyclists who appreciate riding in bus lanes. Well, perhaps "appreciate" is a relative word, but there are many of us who enjoy it enough to have felt it worth defending the space from further incursions by mini-cabs and motorbikes. Indeed, we have heard some glowing appreciation from members following the opening of the Dereham Road bus lane and the benefits to cyclists battling into the city from that direction every morning.

So, why is it that bus lanes in Norwich are only part time? Typically 7am to 7pm and not at all on Sundays. You might (if you were a car-head) reply that you only need a bus lane when you have buses. On the other hand, you could turn that around and ask why other traffic needs to use the bus lane as a second traffic lane out-of hours, when the flow is so much lower.

Furthermore, the argument overlooks the fact that they are (we thought) bus **AND BIKE** lanes and cyclists, most definitely, would like the extra protection of a traffic-free lane after 7pm, especially when it gets dark and the cars speed up. Also on Sundays when young families are often out on bikes.

Because of limited road space, bus lanes like that on Newmarket Road were squeezed into space not really meant for two traffic lanes, and this is only too apparent when the neck and neck 'dual carriageway effect' happens out-of-hours. Woe betide the cyclist who gets caught up in the race. Through the Cycling Forum, we have requested that all new bus lanes are made 24 hour, 7 days a week, and that the existing ones be converted. They've managed to do this in Ipswich ..... although we couldn't possibly use that as an argument - just common sense!

*Matthew Williams*



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

**NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN**

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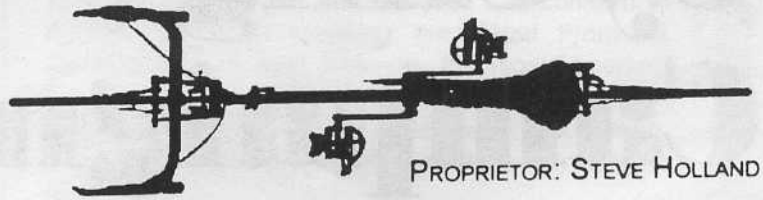
- MUD and CHAINGUARDS
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## Bikeworks

Open on Saturdays for

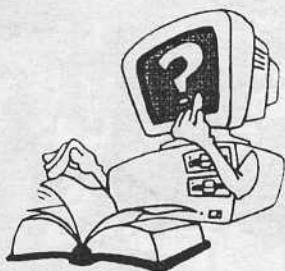
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- ★ Maintenance
- ★ Free Bike Checks

10:30 - 16:30

In the courtyard behind the  
Greenhouse, Bethel St.



## Editors' piece



Yes, there are now two of us! On behalf of all our readers, we would like to thank John King for all the excellent newsletters he has produced in the past.

As announced in the last issue, John is no longer able to edit the newsletter due to a much increased workload. He is certainly a difficult act to follow, but we'll do our best to produce something every quarter that is as near as possible to his high standards!

Your contributions and views are vital - this is YOUR newsletter, after all! Please get these to us by Tuesday 4th May, so we can include them in the June issue.

*Mike and Pam*

## Cycling Campaign world first!

Despite being well publicised, the winter 'Biryani Ride' in December was poorly supported. Only five people turned up for the ride and about a dozen for the magnificent feast afterwards. I was getting into a tizz over all the food left over ... something to do with my Second World War childhood ... when Nigel, our worthy Treasurer, had the brilliant idea of auctioning it!

After 15 minutes of brisk bidding, all the food was sold and the event realised a small overall profit. As there is no entry in the Guinness Book of Records for curry auctions, I think we can assume that this was a world first. But, if you know different, I'd love to know.

There will, of course, be another Biryani Ride in June during National Bike Week, so don't miss it! It will be our fifth and the food is legendary.....

*Mike*

# CAMPAIGN UPDATE

by Campaign Co-ordinator Richard Bearman

I would like to make this column a regular feature of the newsletter, so I can bring you up to date with some of the news and happenings at the Campaign office and elsewhere.

Since our AGM in December, we have some new committee members and some existing members have taken on new roles, including me!

We would like to record our thanks to the retiring members, John King (Newsletter Editor) and Hans Hoffbauer (Membership Secretary) and welcome our new editors.

Andy Mitchell's 'Bikeworks', on Saturdays at The Greenhouse, has been very successful and has enabled the Campaign to pay the rent for our office space there. Please use the service and tell your cycling friends about it. Thanks to Andy for those long, cold hours spent outside.

Our newsletter costs and telephone expenses are also under tight control, but we need to raise funds for other activities. A sponsored cycle ride has been suggested, but we are keen for other ideas and for volunteers to organise and support any events. National Bike Week will be from 6-14th June and we especially need ideas for this to go in the June newsletter.

Our monthly meetings are open to all members and are held on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, at the Campaign office in Bethel Street. This is where we decide what the Campaign is doing, so do come along and take part. Every third month, we have a guest to educate us on a cycling topic! See page 8 for details and dates of the meetings and other forthcoming events.

Our new Membership Secretary, Christian Riches, aims to double our membership numbers - he is not going to be able to do this single-handed, so if you can recruit at least one other cyclist to the Campaign, his task will be considerably easier! We are currently redesigning our membership leaflet and you can get copies from the Campaign office. I'm usually chained to the desk on Fridays from 10 to 4, so please call in or give me a call on 664364.

*Richard*

**DON'T FORGET**

**NATIONAL  
BIKE WEEK**

**6 - 14 JUNE**

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

