

# NORWICH CYCLING

## campaign newsletter 39

**December 2000 - February 2001**  
**50p where sold - free to members**

*This newsletter is published by NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN, which 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.*



# It's 'all go' on Marriott's Way

**Rob Marshall, Norfolk County Council's  
Cycling Officer, reports ...**

Our scheme to improve the surface of Marriott's Way (MW) between Taverham (Costessey Lane) and Norwich (Marlpit Lane) is well under way. It's hoped that all will be finished by February 2001 - weather permitting.

By the time this article gets printed, the sub-base along the route should have been installed. This phase of MW improvement is costing about £120,000 and comes from the County Council's transportation capital budgets. There's not enough, as usual, to provide all that needs doing - a better ramp at Costessey Lane, or the connecting link via Station Road across Taverham Lane through to the A1075, however, these sections will be designed up this year ready for future funding.

Currently, this section suffers from unevenness and a great deal of mud and puddling (particularly at this time of year) - although from my recent path 'setting-out' site visits with the contractors, several 'mountain bike type' cyclists sped past, oblivious of the mud! There are also sections where vegetation and some tree growth needs cutting back - sensitively of course! The present surface will be upgraded to a 2.5m wide Breedon Gravel path, though

there are a few short sections where only 2.0m is available. Breedon Gravel has been chosen as the surfacing material mainly because of its aesthetics and the need for environmental sensitivity over this section of MW, which has a very rural feel. The gravel surface will set quite hard and look good too - and it makes a rustling noise so that we cyclists don't creep up on unsuspecting pedestrians and horses!

The inconvenient 'P' type barriers that presently are in place along the Gunton Lane section at the Norwich end of the path will also be looked at and, all being well, replaced by simple bollards with 1.5m gaps. So that should make access even more convenient (and better for those less able).

MW Art Project update - on a closing note, the new bridge at Anderson's Meadow, the Dragon Crossing, has received a civic award from the Norfolk Society. So we're very pleased since it's one of the first outcomes of the MW art project. The art project still continues, in spite of the disappointing outcome of a lottery bid, and we'll be looking at how best to spend the cash in the bank that's been made available to us by a Norfolk Environmental Waste Services landfill tax grant. Any burning ideas let me know!

*Rob Marshall, County Hall*

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# AGM 2000



The AGM this year will be at The Greenhouse, Bethel Street. Please arrive by 7.30pm, so we can make a prompt start at 7.45pm. There is cycle parking directly opposite.

We will start with the official business, which will include the election of committee members for the forthcoming year.

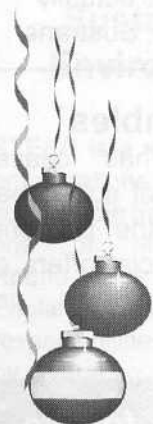
Once the official business is over, we can relax with Matthew Williams and Phyll Hardie, who will be taking a look back at the Ride the Net celebrations in June of this year, with slides.

As in previous years, there will then be a 'bring-and-share' buffet, so please bring some food to share, and, if you can, let me know what you're bringing beforehand.

The Greenhouse will be providing a good range of organic beers, wines and soft drinks, which you can purchase at shop prices. Teas and coffees will also be available.

So come along, have your say, and enjoy the evening!

Pam Frost  
Coordinator and Membership Secretary



**AGM  
THURSDAY  
14TH DECEMBER  
THE GREENHOUSE,  
BETHEL STREET,  
7.30 PM**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED

Our constitution requires us to have 3 officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Co-ordinator), plus an optional number of committee members.

Phyll Hardie is intending to stand again this year as Chairman, and Richard Bearman as Treasurer.

I have decided not to stand for the position of Co-ordinator/Membership Secretary, so we will need someone else to come forward. After the March issue, I also intend to give up the production of the newsletter (Mike Savage will still be Editor), so we need a computer-literate person, preferably with desktop publishing experience, to take over from the June 2001 newsletter onwards, or earlier if they prefer!

A list of Campaign positions is included with this newsletter. These are not 'fixed' roles, but can be adapted to suit the individual. The Co-ordinator's job, in particular, covers a multitude of sins and could easily be split into smaller chunks.

If you think you could carry out any of the Co-ordinator or Membership tasks, or if you wish to stand for Chairman, Treasurer, or as a committee member, please get in touch with me on 01603 612014, by Tuesday 12th December. Alternatively, you can e:mail me (address on page 11) or, if all else fails, make your willingness known at the meeting!

We need more active members to make our campaigning as effective as possible. The more people involved, the less will fall on the shoulders of the few stalwarts who currently give up a lot of time and energy to make the Campaign a success. This year has been disappointing, as most members have appeared reluctant to get actively involved. Remember, it is YOUR campaign. It's up to YOU to make it work.

### In this issue:

The bells, they'll make me deaf	4	STEER to a better future	5
Talking about transport	6	Hospital hiccup	7
Manchester cycling	8	Sandy Lane update	9
Schools initiative / A Finnish view	10	Forthcoming events	12

# Editor's info

by Mike Savage



Although Great Britain has the lowest accident rate in Europe, it has the highest involving children. Over 90,000 children every year end up in hospital with cycle related injuries.

In Holland, where we all know that cycling facilities are much better than here, over 40% of cycle accidents reported are "single vehicle accidents" i.e. are caused by people just falling off due to things like shopping bags catching in the wheels or by people just "larking about".

No wonder so many parents will not allow their children to cycle to school.

I think it was Disraeli who said "There are lies, damned lies, and statistics". Some people share this point of view. I personally believe the the above figures.

So what must we do? We must continue to campaign for safe routes to schools. We must encourage children to wear helmets and learn proper road craft.

## Autumn leaves

Building cycle tracks is all well and good but when will the authorities realise that somebody must take on the job of keeping them clear! This section of Bluebell Rd looks particularly dodgy at present



It's the right leaves, on the wrong track

## Whippet Cycles

Chris Brown has moved from his tiny shop in Cambridge St. to much larger premises round the corner in Suffolk Square. Good luck to Chris in his new venture!



Chris Brown at his new premises

## Jingle bells!

All new bikes are soon to be fitted with bells - by law - so it's only a matter of time before they are made compulsory for everybody! Not a bad idea for stocking-fillers?



## Sturmey Archer goes belly up

If you own a Sturmey Archer hub gear, then look after it! The firm which has been making these since the beginning of the last century has gone bust.

Various rescue attempts have failed and production has ceased, so eventually spares could be unobtainable.

Fortunately, Brooks saddles (made by the same company) will continue to be manufactured at another factory, as will Brooks "Proofide", the excellent dressing for leather saddles.

## Disturbing facts

Cycle use in this country is only 2% of all journeys: in Germany it is 10%, in Switzerland 15%.

Our National Cycle Network is actually being co-ordinated by a charity, Sustrans.

## "On Your Bike" tumbles

"On Your Bike" magazine has ceased publication. If you were a postal subscriber, you should have heard from the publisher EMAP, offering a refund or special offers on alternative magazines. Any problems, ring them on 0845 601136.

**Closing date for items for the  
March 2001 newsletter is  
Friday 16th February**

*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*

