

# NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN Newsletter 42

September - November 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.



When have you seen 7 bikes folded in a matter of seconds? The 2001 Lord Mayors Procession was just such an occasion when Norwich Cycling Campaign members, family and friends donned Norwich Cycling Campaign T-shirts and took to the streets. For those of us on folding bikes, it took us a little while to get the folding of bikes down to a fine art but we soon became tuned into Rob Conway's whistle - 1st blast = stop and fold, 2nd blast = pick up bike and walk, 3rd blast = stop and unfold, 4th blast = cycle away!

The 7 folding bikes were accompanied by Rob Conway (with whistle and a selection of trailers, extensions and seats for the youngest family members, Bill Fisher with his young grandson Sebastian and Matthew Williams doing a class act of being a frustrated cyclist with a wooden frame representing the space a car occupies.

Good fun was had by all as you can see by the pictures.



# **CYCLE RECYCLE**

## **Reconditioned Bike bits Warehouse**

**Possibly the largest collection  
in  
East Anglia!**

**MUD- and CHAINGUARDS  
BATTERY and DYNAMO LAMPS  
WHEELS and SADDLES  
LUGGAGE RACKS and BASKETS  
BRAKE and GEAR SPARES  
COMPLETE BIKES TOO**

**All parts are GUARANTEED and  
For sale at around 50% of new price!  
Phone Nigel on 01603 502188  
(answerphone)**

## **Wheel warehouse**

**AT LEAST 50 RECONDITIONED  
WHEELS ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

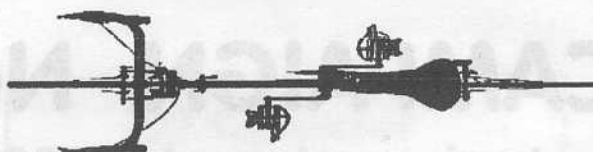
**ALLOY OR STEEL RIMS IN ALL  
POPULAR SIZES, TO FIT ALL  
TYPES OF ADULT SIZE BIKE**

**All clean, fully GUARANTEED  
And for sale at less than half  
retail price, e.g. Mountain Bike  
rear alloy from £10**

**Phone Richard on 01603 403415  
Or Nigel on 01603 502188  
(answerphone)**

**All profits to  
NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN**

**OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTORS OF DAWES CYCLES  
& BROMPTON FOLDING CYCLES**



*Proprietor: Steve Holland*

**SPECIALISED CYCLES**  
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**TEL/FAX: 01603 665668**

**OPEN: 8.30am—6.00pm**

**E-mail: [specycle@lineone.net](mailto:specycle@lineone.net)**

**[www.specycle.co.uk](http://www.specycle.co.uk)**

## **CYCLE RECYCLE BIKE SALES**

**EVERY MONTH**

**SATURDAY 8th September**  
**SATURDAY 6th October**  
**9AM—2PM**

**Corner of Waldeck Road and  
Leopold Road**

***Secondhand bikes with  
Guarantee from £20***

***New and used spares, accessories,  
etc.***

**Phone: 01603 502188 for more details**

# Editor's Info....

By Mike Savage

## TRAFFIC FREE DAY

On September 22nd (Traffic Free Day) Queen St. will be closed to traffic. Why Queen St. - could there be an ulterior motive? The closure will complete a continuous pedestrianised link from the Market to Tombland and the cathedral. Perhaps the city fathers have permanent closure in mind? Would such a scheme exclude cyclists.

Now's the time to start asking questions!

## POWER ASSISTED BIKES

These machines are increasing in numbers and have the big advantage of not requiring road tax or insurance. Personally I think it's essential to have third party and theft insurance for any bicycle, power assisted or not! The C.T.C. welcomes owners of these machines and provides third party insurance and legal aid as part of their membership.

For more info ring 01483 417217.



## SOUTHERN BYPASS BRIDGE

What a pity it was that when the bypass bridge was built better facilities were not provided for cyclists! Cyclists can of course ride on the bypass but few dare to do so. 50 ton lorries doing 50 m.p.h. + are hardly an encouragement! The existing path from Whitlingham Lane to Thorpe is clearly a footpath. I would not consider riding across the bridge, particularly against the traffic. Better access to Griffin Lane, better facilities at the roundabout, and surface improvements to Whitlingham lane would certainly be a great improvement to what is, after all, the only river crossing between Carrow Bridge and Reedham. The path across the actual bridge is more of a problem to which it's difficult to see a solution.

## TECNOTIP

If you haven't used your lights for a while, now's the time to check out the batteries. If you're one of the unlucky ones the old batteries will have leaked and damaged the lights. Prevention is better than cure! Always remove batteries from appliances if they are not going to be used for a while and always buy good quality "leakproof" alkalines. Also bear in mind that batteries do have a sell-by date so it's best to get them from a shop with a high turnover.

### Also inside:

<i>Chairman's Chat</i>	4
<i>More Mutterings from Matthew</i>	6
<i>Letter to the Editor</i>	8
<i>Member's Machines</i>	9
<i>For Sale</i>	9
<i>A Favourite Ride</i>	10
<i>Bike Culture in Lincoln</i>	10
<i>Contacts/Dates for your Diary</i>	12

# Chairman's Chat

By Phyll Hardie

Christine (Wilson) and I have just returned to 'Car-land' after spending three weeks on the Rhine cycle route from Konstanz to Koln, including some train and boat assistance. We took the opportunity to look round some towns and cities along the way, including Koblenz, one of Norwich's twin towns.

Apart from the excessive heat, more than 30C most days with some spectacular thunder storms, the most impressive feature was the number of cyclists everywhere. The Rhine route is obviously very popular - we'd be pleased to see just half the number using our Route 1 - with cyclists riding all manner of machines, many pulling trailers with children or gear. The surface is mainly good - tarmac, smooth brickweave or fine gravel.

The Swiss and German towns we passed through featured extensive pedestrianised areas with a wide choice of pavement cafes and restaurants shaded by trees and very large umbrellas. They were doing brisk trade, as were the shops with goods displayed outside. There were cycle parking facilities everywhere, catering for the many cycling shoppers who of course are allowed the same right of thoroughfare as the pedestrians. We were impressed with the large number of 'home zones' - cars allowed through at no more than walking pace while stopping for longer than 3 minutes incurs the possibility of an on-the-spot fine. All residential streets have 30kph (20mph) speed limits. On the road cyclists have priority over motorists by means of coloured lanes across junctions and forecourts. Our system in which cyclists are expected to 'give way' at every point (including a field entrance in Thorpe St Andrew!) is seen as laughable by Europeans, as is our obsession with the car.

How has this state of affairs been allowed to develop here? Christine and I discussed this long and hard and decided it is related to our class-ridden society, in which one's status can be interpreted by the type of transport one uses,

while a country with a high proportion of car users is seen as 'developed' and 'affluent'. It also shows the strength of the road lobby in this country, with insidious effects.

The Europeans are far more practical and use the form of transport most suited to their particular need, without any 'image' problem. They also appear far more caring of their environment and of others. Throughout the whole 533km (333mile) ride we saw no sign of vandalism or fear of theft, though there was graffiti in the cities. Where cyclists and pedestrians mingled each respected the others' presence.

As cycle campaigners we attend meetings to try and find solutions to our traffic problems while all the time those solutions can be seen just across the Channel. Britain aspires to be part of Europe but not of its transport solutions. For one thing, it could use its railways and rivers far more efficiently for the transport of freight, as we saw them used in Germany. Boat transport on the lower Rhine was like that on the Broads at the height of the season.

What can we do about it? One idea is to charter a European Bike Bus - out of season when normally laid up - to take a selected group of city and county councillors and others, and their bikes to enable first hand experience, to see and try these solutions for themselves. They'd find that pedestrianised town centres are certainly not 'dead'. Indeed, closing a street to cars is probably the best way to revive its fortunes. So how about closing Magdalen Street, which appears to be in need of revival, along with Tombland which feeds it? European Car-free Day on 22nd September would have been an ideal opportunity to try it, but no, we're far too nervous of upsetting motorists and unconvinced traders.

**NEW CYCLING OFFICER**  
**Tim Jarvis has been appointed as**  
**Norfolk County Council's new Cycling**  
**Officer.**

