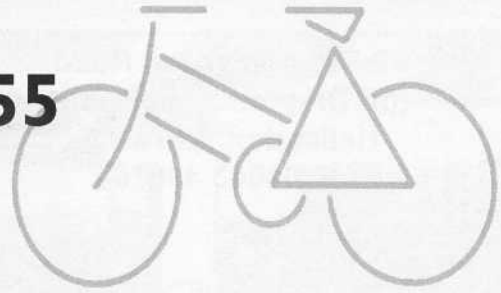


NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Newsletter Number 55

December 2004 - February 2005

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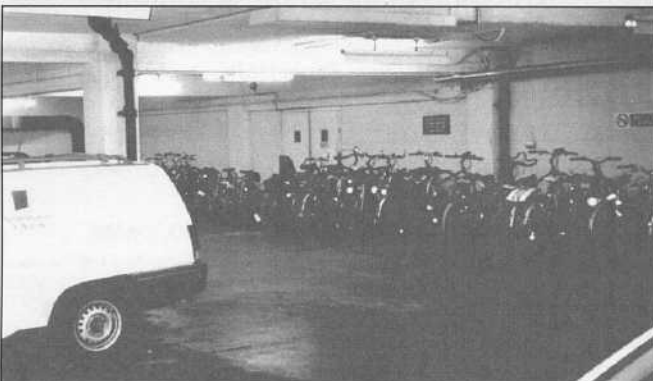
This newsletter is published by NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN, which was formed in 1990 to promote cycling in Norwich and to lobby for better cycle facilities.

Norwich Cycling Campaign is affiliated to the National Cycle Campaign Network.

The parking problems that seem to dominate local motorists' concerns these days appear to be spreading to the less selfish members of society. The congested cycle racks, stands and railings around the city suggest an increasing number of people are realising that the most convenient way to get around is on two wheels. In this issue we take a look at some of the facilities in Norwich plus a glimpse of those available in other places - Mike Savage has been out and about with his camera to illustrate what is on offer (more inside).



Norwich City Centre (left): The stands outside the entrance to the Castle Mall in Castle Meadow are nearly always full, whereas these stands at the Riverside development (below) are still under-used.



Left: Some local employers provide covered, secure parking for staff who cycle to work. This facility is one provided by Norwich Union on one of their sites in the city.

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Nigel has sorted out lots of new and almost new bits donated to Cycle Recycle over the years for sale at

The Green Fair

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER,

**St Thomas,s Church Hall Earlham Road
(10a.m. until 4p.m.)**

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE
RECYCLE CHARITY WHICH SENDS
BICYCLES TO COUNTRIES IN AFRICA.

P.S. Cycle Recycle remains mothballed for the second winter but Nigel is still taking donated adult bikes and hopes to form a Ltd Co. in spring 2005 which will distribute the reconditioned machines in Norwich. A proportion of the net profit will be given to Cycling Campaign funds; any undamaged machines requiring too much work will be passed on to RECYCLE.....so keep 'em rolling in!!

Contact Nigel: 01603 502188

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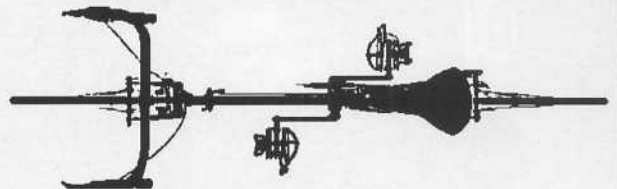
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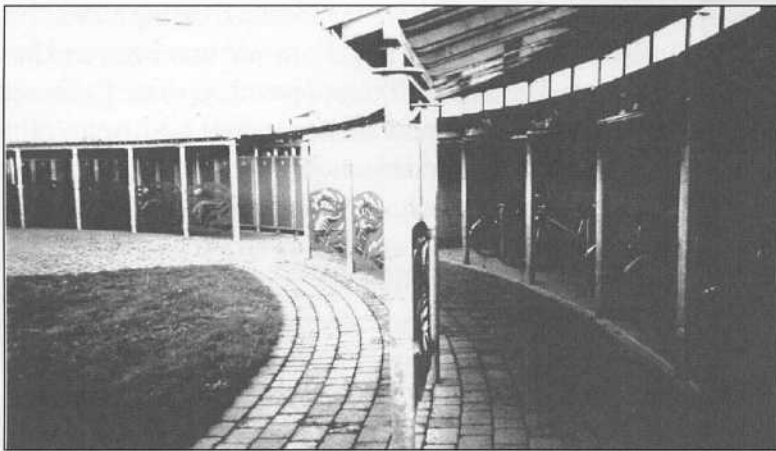
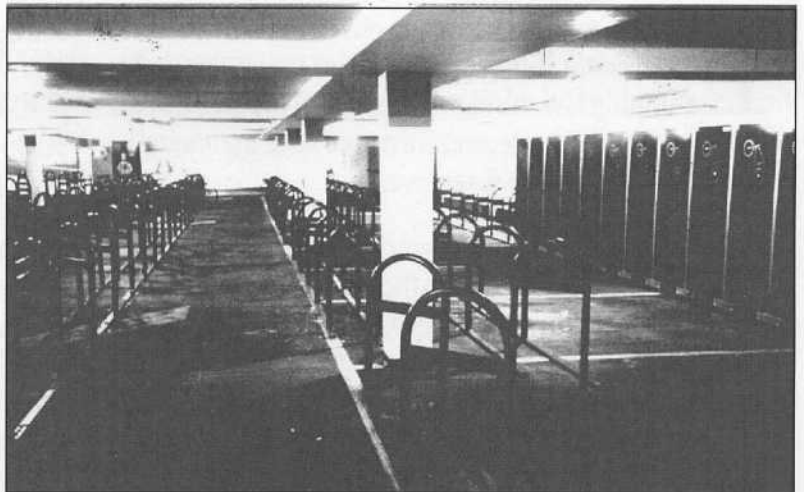
Editor's Info . . .

by Mike Savage

More on parking...

Shangri-La?

Fifty full-height lockers and two hundred sheffield stands - some adapted for tandems and trailers - at Park Street, Cambridge.



Cambridge again - free, covered stands and rentable lockers at a Park and Ride site

Norwich: These sheffield stands are in a covered, illuminated, relatively safe area and are free. They are a five-minute walk from the railway station, yet are mainly used by motorcyclists!



Many thanks to outgoing editor Ian Maunders who has spent many hours compiling the newsletter over the past four years. Thanks also to Ian's wife Nicola who has welcomed members to their home for collating the newsletters.

(Editor's exit - page 11)



Encouraging people to get on their bikes and leave the car at home seems easier when the sun is shining and the nights are light. This time of year it is more of a challenge, and we do not have the attraction of social rides or bike week events.

I think the great incentive this month is highlighted in the Evening News headline "Traffic chaos grips city centre roads" People complain it takes an hour and a half to cross the city, or an hour to get out of a car park. There are the usual causes quoted of road works and, Christmas shoppers, but my feeling is that this is how it will be. Late night and Sunday shopping and developments like Chapelfield all attract more cars into the city, without a reliable bus service.

Within Norwich it's much quicker to cycle, with bus and cycle lanes and some car free streets. You know how long the journey will take, whatever the traffic, and there is less risk from speeding motorists.

We need more members to support the Campaign to get this message across to the public, large employers and public bodies and the politicians. The local papers are very receptive to letters supporting cycling, so do write in and get your name in print!

Our Annual general meeting is on December, so if you are interested to join the committee to take part in campaigning, do come along. All members are welcome at committee meetings on the third Thursday each month. We usually go on for a drink at Take Five, so it's a wonderful incentive to move the meeting on.

Many of you will have read in the Evening News about Rachel Wix and Ian Mold's recent marriage, and Ian's cancer. They are both valued members of the Campaign, with Ian as membership secretary and running the website. Rachel does much to support the Campaign, including co-ordinating National Bike week.

We wish them every happiness.

The Amazing Tale of the Returning Brompton!

This is a tale concerning Rob Conway's red Brompton, ridden at the time by Rob's son, Jonathan. The Brompton was left casually against Rob's gatepost in Ipswich Road. During a momentary lapse in concentration Jonathan turned his back and when he looked again he found that, alas, it had mysteriously disappeared.

As soon as Rob found out what had happened he immediately contacted Phyll Hardie who promptly circulated the news on the internet via the Norwich Cycling Campaign discussion group. The message was received by Cycling Campaign member Adrian Wragg.

The very next day Adrian spotted a red Brompton being ridden along Lime Tree Road. He noted that, unusually for a Brompton owner, the rider was allowing his friend to ride as a passenger standing on the rear rack! Suddenly he remembered the message from Phyll and straightway he performed a U-turn in the road and followed the youths into the nearby Tuckswood Estate.

After a series of convoluted turns he noticed the rider and his passenger dismount, leaving the machine unlocked as the entered the local supermarket. He was then faced with the difficult situation of trying how to

find out if this was the missing machine without a potentially ugly confrontation. He quickly devised a cunning plan. He deftly folded the bike and carried it out of sight around the corner to place it in the boot of his car. Returning to the supermarket he walked in, approached the youths and reported the shocking news that someone had stolen their bicycle from outside the shop! He was not altogether surprised when their reaction seemed indifferent and circumspect. As they walked out of the shop, past the spot where their bike had been, Adrian, (warming to his new role in the acting world!), followed them saying, "aren't you bothered that someone has stolen your bike" and "I'd let the police know if I were you". As they walked to join a group of youths across the road, Adrian persisted, asking "who's bike was it, anyway. "It was Wayne's" came the reply. At his point, Adrian left and drove to Rob's house. He related the whole riveting tale before returning the recovered bicycle. (A quick check on the frame number confirmed that it was the one)!

A big "thank you" for your quick thinking and heroic efforts, Adrian!

Rob Conway

