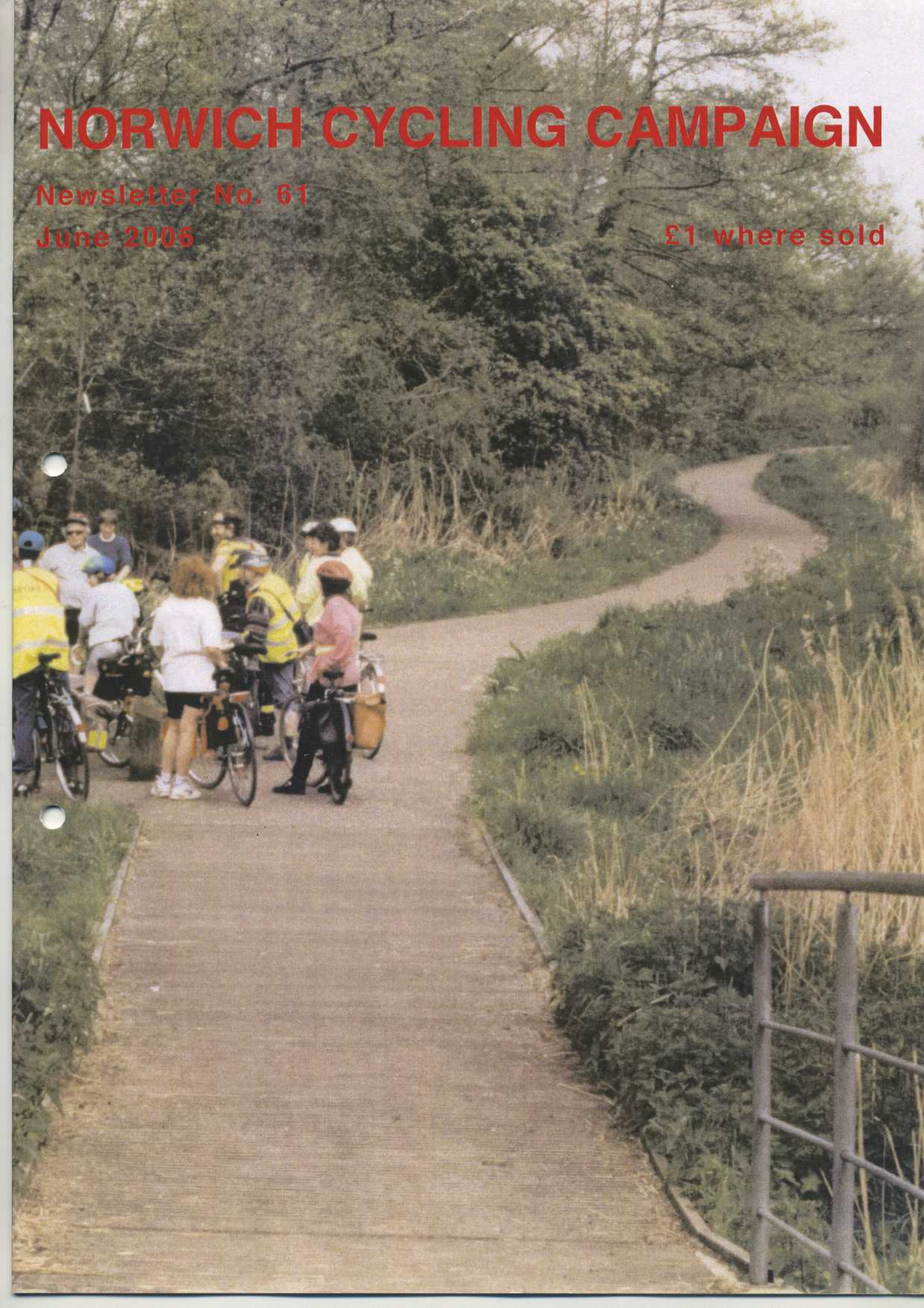


NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

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USEFUL www. LINKS

Cycling

norwichcyclingcampaign.org
eastangliancc.org
cycleweb.co.uk
whycycle.co.uk
bikeweek.org.uk
bikeforall.net
biceberg.es/INGLES/index.htm
cyclenetwork.org.uk
ctc.org.uk
Eurovelo.org
ecf.com/discover/index.htm
nationalcyclingstrategy.org.uk

NB. the new address!

East Anglian Cycling Club
Cycleweb cycling directory
Whycycle. Advice site
2006 Bike week
Bike For All
Underground bike storage
Cycle Campaign Network
Cyclists Touring Club
European Cycle Route network
European Cyclists' Federation
National Cycling Strategy

Other sites

norfolk.gov.uk
norwichareatransport.org
dft.gov.uk
norfolk.police.uk
broads-authority.gov.uk
transport2000.org.uk
brake.org.uk
onerailway.com
travelinesoutheast.org.uk
firstgroup.com/ukbus/eastanglia
centraltrains.co.uk
greenhousetrust.co.uk
eveningnews24.co.uk



Chairman's Chat

Returning refreshed from a 9 week trip it's good to see the preparations for National Bike Week well in hand. Do come and join us on the rides, and let's hope our rides and publicity encourage more cycling.

We very much appreciate the help Sean Austin has given the Campaign, editing the newsletter and looking after the website. Sean did an excellent job, bringing experience of the Milton Keynes Cycling Campaign, and we are very grateful for his support. Thanks too to David Van Edwards for stepping in to take over as editor whilst I was away.

On my holiday I was struck by the contrasts between countries, not least in cycling, as many of you will be familiar with.

From Australia with its few cyclists, compulsory helmets and heavily car dependent society, to Tokyo, with hundreds of bikes everywhere. A car is a liability there, with excellent public transport, few hills and huge blocks of flats with no parking. People of all ages cycle, often on the pavements, and it is accepted without challenge, consideration being the key. Theft and vandalism seem minimal with not a D lock in sight.

In Norwich the police have been very effective in reducing cycle theft, especially from well known "hot-spots". The city and county councils are expressing more pro-cycling ideas, and our "compact" and consultations are essential to try to ensure that these ideas result in improved facilities on the ground. This is long drawn out, with results seen only over time. These include the planned update to the Norwich cycling map, funding for regular Dr Bike sessions in the city and improved cycle parking at the bus interchange at the railway station. We have begun discussing on the committee more short term focussed campaigns, to complement our present activities.

Here are some of our ideas.

Work out going nowhere? Try cycling! - To attract those keen to get fit, but put off by the boredom of relying solely on gym equipment .

Avoid traffic delays-the cycle lane is always free - to this we could add - with the bonus of the bus lane.

These ideas were lifted from New Zealand during a very low key Bike Week.

My other car is a bike - to persuade people that households do not need a second car if they cycle.

Tank full of petrol = Cost of a new bike

No Parking problems - cycle door to door

Feeling depressed? Cycling can help do the trick!

The campaign has some money for these initiatives, but volunteers are welcome to help put them into practice. Also there is money available from the funds set aside for the now sadly defunct scheme for a cycle centre in Norwich, some of which is to be used for promoting cycling.

Following National Bike Week seems a good time for these campaigns, with the local press and councils being receptive to promoting cycling, and all political parties supporting environmental initiatives. Wherever you look in central Norwich there are apartments under construction, with the potential for hundreds of new cyclists. We would like ideas for these from members, so we can have a series of brief campaigns, with leaflets, press releases, using local radio and if possible TV.

Everyone has a special interest, and we would like to hear about yours.

Late news

The "compact" arrangements will need to be renegotiated following the results from the local election, Labour now being the largest party, but with no majority and the Green party now having 9 seats, more than any other council in the country.

Jeff Jordan



More Mutterings from Matthew

Getting out more

It's a Saturday afternoon in Spring. Restless weather, and a restless mind. Things coming up everywhere. I know I must get out for an hour or two. But not quite able to justify to myself an entirely purposeless ride, I have to make it a mission. To get that toothbrush rack that had been wanting for some weeks from our refurbished bathroom.

I trundle off down Jessopp Road thinking how unseasonably chilly it is and trying to work out which way the wind is gusting. Whatever, it'll cool the brain. A throbbing monster is approaching from behind, the driver oblivious to the wind entombed in his sound box. I let the car push on past as we cross a speed hump. It turns out to be a young woman in a Fiesta with mega bass. She's still thumpingly trying to find somewhere to stop outside the pizza shop as I pedal past.

Up the hill and over Park Lane to Mill Hill Road in one movement. The central node in the tangle of Golden Triangle cycle routes, marked by a new blue sign. It fails to record my particular route, but why should it? I think how nice it would be to get The Crack filled in, as I wiggle the roadster to minimise the ker-dunk. One day I'll get the pothole card sent.



I decide the wind is mainly inside for the outbound trip as I slither up the inside of white van man in the queue to the lights on Dereham Road.

Get in front of the wing mirror and you can usually avoid an altercation. Not in the mood for that today, just let me get to Wickes and then away from it all!



More red lights at the end of Old Palace Road, authoritatively barring the left turn onto the dangerously empty road. Two cyclists up on the pavement go past me on the inside anyway. A splatter of rain is blown across my face and I notice for the first time a yellowish-grey tinge to the sky. Maybe the Canaries have just conceded a goal.



It's a relief to turn onto Dolphin Path and the chance to ease off a little. I round a blind bend to encounter a lady with two small dogs on long leads. I unscrew my rattly bell just in time to ring it without sounding aggressive, and the dogs are hauled in to save me losing my chilled-out momentum. My "Thanks!" coincides precisely with her "Sorry!"

Anderson's Meadow, a former rubbish tip, looks particularly green today, a thought possibly shared by the grazing horses, although I have a suspicion they see only in black and white.

On past opaque grey ditchwater and The Grill with its filtered collection of drain-gully debris, and round to the builders' merchant emporium, tethering my steed to the bright blue railing outside the door. Try

to focus thoughts as I enter plus-foured in my cycle clips. But no joy. Carry on then, try Thorns. A chance to follow traffic-free Marriott's Way into the city centre, to savour the ambiguity of the route that doesn't know whether it's supposed to be rural or urban. There is a subtle hint of joy in the tension between the two, the fresh green and the grey squalor, the right and left fields. I glance back and glimpse the reflection of a car scrapyards in the river right where John Crome painted one of his best. Junked cars. It's a sign of hope to take with me as I hit Barn Road.



