



# NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

ISSUE 58

JANUARY 2006

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This will be held on Tuesday 14th February 2006 at 8pm in the Anglican Methodist Hall (behind St. Peter's Church in the centre of Tring).

**Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a member.**

The short formalities will be followed by refreshments, and then (probably about 9pm) we will have a talk by Andy Knight, **SUSTRANS Area Manager for Luton, Beds and Herts.** who will tell us about the **National Cycle Network** and (amongst other things) what is proposed for the area. Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects so people can choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. In September 2005 Sustrans had achieved construction of 10,000 miles of cycle paths which form the National Cycle Network, and the new target has become 20,000 miles.

## **COMMANDO ROLL**

National Cycle Network Route 7 runs parallel to the A9 in the Drumochter Pass area of Scotland. Where it crosses minor roads and field boundaries cattle grids have been used to stop sheep reaching the A9. But all designs or lengths of grid failed to contain hill sheep, which used eight different methods to cross the grids including the widely reported "commando roll" technique. It is now suggested that two-way, self-closing gates should be used instead. These allow cyclists to pass through from both directions without dismounting, though they have to stop to operate them. It will be interesting to see how long it is before the sheep devise methods to open the gates.

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## **PAUL BURNETT**

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the recent sudden and unexpected death of Paul Burnett at the age of 72. Paul had been a member of Tring Cycling Campaign for several years, and often attended our meetings and events.

Although he was a long-standing member of High Wycombe Cycling Club, he also supported many other causes in several areas, and was awarded the Service to Sport award by Bucks County Council in 1999 for his work for cycling, and received a similar award in 2000 from Wycombe and Marlow Sports Council. In 1953 he broke the Wycombe club's 50 mile tricycle record in two hours 28 minutes and 15 seconds, and this record still stands. He bought a new bike in 2003 and raced in time trials.

In later life he was a prolific fund raiser for good causes. Here are just two of them. He raised £20,000 for melanoma cancer research with a ride from London to Edinburgh, and he also rode 850 miles from Land's End to John O' Groats to raise money for three hospital research units.

Paul supported many groups and individuals. For example some years ago he identified the abilities of Nicole Cook, a young rider starting to advance in cycle sport, visited her in Wales, and went to the Athens Olympics to offer vocal encouragement. We shall miss his enthusiastic tales of such events.

Paul leaves two sons, Chris and Tim. His wife Pat passed away several years ago

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## CYCLES ON TRAINS

Rail operator GNER now has a dedicated section of its website for cyclists, with information about station facilities and taking bikes on the company's trains.

There is an on-line cycle reservation section. Visit [www.gner.co.uk/GNER/YourJourney/cycles+on+gner.htm](http://www.gner.co.uk/GNER/YourJourney/cycles+on+gner.htm)  
This is for use for booking more than 24 hours ahead and buying tickets at the same time. There is a booking form on which to give details of your journey, but this is not an automated system and a GNER representative will phone you back within 24 hours to confirm your details. You will have to visit the station if you have less time than this. Cycles are carried free of charge in the guard's van, but only one per customer and there is only space for 5 cycles. Tandems count as two cycles.

I note that recent daytime surveys in Norwich indicate that between 45 and 65 bicycles regularly use the cycle stands. This is a bit lower than the number of cyclists who use the stands at Tring Station, even though Norwich is ten times the size of Tring. However the following section paints a different picture.

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## CYCLING TO SCHOOL

Hillside Avenue Primary School in Norwich created a school exercise plan to deal with concerns about poor parking at the front of the school. The school tried a "walking bus" scheme, but that seemed impractical so the children were encouraged to cycle. Now 70% of the pupils cycle to school.

Nationally 88% of children have bikes and 45% would like to cycle to school, but only 2% do so. See [www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk](http://www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk)

In Tring very few, if any, pupils cycle to the three primary schools. On the other hand there has been much attention to walking, and so many pupils walk to school.

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## PUBLIC SERVICES ON BIKES

If you want to see an inspirational video on the web (including sound and sub-titles) which shows the City of London Police, London Ambulance Service and other services giving faster and more effective responses by using bicycles then try [www.streamcity.co.uk/clients/transport/bikes.htm](http://www.streamcity.co.uk/clients/transport/bikes.htm)

## Great500 CYCLE CHALLENGE

Marie Curie Cancer Care are organising an ambitious fundraising event in September 2006 for 500 cyclists. The aim is for these cyclists to each start from one of 5 starting points (Prague, Berlin, Krakow, Gdansk or Vilnius) and cycle to Marie Curie's birthplace in Warsaw. The routes range in distance from 300 to 400 miles, between 4 and 6 days riding, and between 6 and 8 nights away. The registration fee is £235, which includes cost of flights, bus, meals, accommodation, bike for the duration, and for support crew and doctor. However you will need to raise at least £1,800 in sponsorship. The culmination will be when all five routes come together on Friday September 15 to enter Warsaw, followed the next day by a celebratory evening dinner.

The resulting funds will be used to support the Marie Curie Nursing Service in Hertfordshire and Essex which gives terminally ill people the choice of dying at home.

To get more details of this service ring 01920 468956 or go to [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)

To reserve your place or get more details of the challenge call 01883 832632 or go to [www.great500.co.uk](http://www.great500.co.uk)

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## STATION ROAD CYCLE PATH

The working party (i.e. the editor) managed about 4 or 5 hours in 2005 clearing overhanging thorny branches and brambles. Problems occur because this mainly affects pedestrians who are forced to suddenly step sideways from the footway onto the cycleway in front of cyclists.

The path is now being swept so leaves are less of a problem, but encroaching vegetation is the responsibility of the landowners, who tend to schedule cutting when brambles have stopped growing. The working party hopes to double its efforts in 2006.

**Visit our website: [www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk](http://www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk)**

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