

NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

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TEN WAYS TO AVOID BIKE THEFT

- 1. Make use of special bicycle parking racks where possible and always lock your bike, regardless of how long you will be away from it.
- 2 If possible use a rack that is in a well-lit or busy area.
- 3. When not in use, keep the bike locked in an outbuilding or inside the house.
- 4. Always keep the door to the building where you store your bike(s) locked, even if you are just in the back garden - an opportunist will always take his chances.
- 5 Use a hardened steel U-type lock, as cable locks are easily cut.
- 6. Consider using anti-pry devices. These cover the gap between your bike and the object it's secured to, thus preventing a thief from inserting a tool in the void and prying or twisting the bike free.
- 7. Register your bike at one of the bike ownership agencies.
- 8. Use an ultraviolet pen to mark your postcode on the frame.
- 9. Write down the name, model and serial number of the bike and store it somewhere safe in case you need to pass on the details to the police.
- 10. Take photographs of the bike and keep a note of extras such as mudguards, high performance tyres and even water bottles, and other equipment you may have added over time.

Nearly 440,000 bicycles were stolen in the U.K. last year!

NEW HIGHWAY CODE

The original draft of the new Highway Code included a seemingly innocuous addition, which told cyclists to 'use cycle facilities...where provided'. Following the campaigning efforts of 11,000 cyclists, the revised wording, issued on 28th March, reads: "***Use cycle routes and cycle facilities...wherever possible, as they can make your journey safer***".

According to CTC, the new wording does not address its original concern that insurance companies will use the wording of the new Code as an excuse to reduce the amount of compensation they pay if a motorist hits a cyclist who has chosen to use a road rather than a nearby cycle facility. CTC Campaigns & Policy Manager, Roger Geffen, said: "We are working hard behind the scenes and very much hope that the Government will see sense and amend the wording to say "***use cycle facilities where they help with your journey***" - thus leaving the decision at the cyclist's discretion. If it does not, we will seek to persuade the Lords to vote it out, or may ultimately initiate a Judicial Review against it."

The Station Cycle Route Working Party (i.e.: the editor) noted on Sunday that several cyclists were using the carriageway because blackthorn branches drooping across the dual-use path scratched their faces unless they had extreme "limbo pole" ability. Most of these have now been cleared by the Working Party, but if the proposed Highway code were in place, one wonders whether an insurance company would be favourable to cyclists using the carriageway to avoid such hazardous thorny branches if they were hit by motorists.

About half the cyclists killed in London had collided with a lorry

ADVICE TO CYCLISTS ON HOW TO AVOID COLLISIONS WITH LORRIES.

1. If a lorry is in front of you, wait where you can see the mirrors until it is possible to pass it.
2. You should pass a lorry only on the right and only when you are sure you have enough time and space to get far enough ahead for the driver to see you clearly before he starts moving.
3. If a lorry is behind you, ride where the driver has to consider your presence.
4. Ride where lorries cannot pass you, or cannot pass you without changing their position on the road.
5. Women cyclists are far more likely to be killed by a lorry, and are more likely to put themselves in danger by adopting a "don't care about me I'm not really here" attitude.

Source: The London School of Cycling.

Railways and Cycling

Cycling and rail travel are perfect partners. The combination provides a 'doorstep-to-destination' option for longer-distance journeys which might otherwise be possible only by car. It is also a really simple way to set about tackling a whole range of problems all in one go: obesity, air pollution, congestion and climate change to name but a few!

The Government is currently working on a White Paper which will determine rail policy and spending plans for the next 30 years. It's due out in July, so the time to influence it is right now.

You can automatically email your MP urging them to support cycle-rail integration using [a website set up by CTC](#) - the UK's national cyclists' organisation. Personal anecdotes about the problems (or examples of good practice) you have encountered will help them to impress on Ministers that this is an issue which really needs addressing.

So I'd urge you to visit www.ctc.org.uk/cyclerrail and follow the instructions from there. And do pass this message onto other cyclist friends. Remember this is a "once in 30 years" opportunity to influence Government policy on this vital issue. Please get emailing - every message counts! .

FUTURE RIDES

- **16th to 24th June - National Bike Week**
 - The UK's nationwide celebration of cycling.
 - For full details see www.bikeweek.org.uk or phone 0845 6120661.
- **Sunday, 24th June - TCC Bike Week Family Ride**
 - Meet St. Peter's Church, Tring High St. 1.45pm for 2.00pm departure for a leisurely ride through Tring Rural villages to Startopsend reservoirs for refreshments.
 - Note, this year we are making this event an afternoon ride rather than in previous years when we started at 11.00am.
- **Saturday, 7th July - Tour de France Prologue**
 - Central London
- **Sunday, 8th July - Tour de France 1st Stage**
 - For full information about the Tour's visit to the UK go to www.tourdefrancelondon.com.
 - Go and see the top professionals at work.
 - *Note - TCC have not been invited to enter a team this year!*
- **Sunday, 15th July - TCC Bike Ride to Cholesbury**
 - Meet St. Peter's Church Tring High St. 10.45am for 11.00am departure for a ride into the Chilterns with a stop for a pub lunch at the Full Moon, Cholesbury.
 - Involving a few hills, this is a new TCC ride for the more energetic.
- **Sunday, 2nd September - TCC Cream Tea Ride**
 - Meet St. Peter's Church, Tring High St. 1.45pm for 2.00pm departure for what is now a traditional leisurely family ride through quiet lanes to Long Marston for a cream tea.
- **Sunday, 16th September – Berkhamsted Bike-Fest.**
 - Meet during afternoon at Canal Fields on other side of canal to Waitrose. This event is run by our sibling Berkhamsted Cycle Group and will include cycle training.

Visit our website: www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk

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