



NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

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ANOTHER SUCCESS

Last year several cyclists (including some who were not TCC members) complained to us that the new speed cushions which had been installed in Grove Road were too close to the kerbs. We consulted the Democratic Services Officer at Herts County Council, who confirmed that the gap between the kerb and the foot of the cushion should normally be not less than 750mm, and that 500 mm should be regarded as the minimum. Our measurements showed that 13 out of the 14 gaps were less than 750mm, and that 8 of these were less than 500mm. We told Herts County Council about the unacceptability of these gaps, and our views were reinforced by Herts County Councillor (and current Tring Mayor) Nick Hollinghurst (who is one of our members).

As a result (and after the usual delay to plan the work) many of the cushions were moved on November 5 to increase the gaps. I have now found it easy to cycle along this road without hitting the cushions, even in dark, windy or rainy conditions. It is therefore likely that the fireworks I saw later on that day were set off by grateful cyclists in celebration.

EMISSION-FREE DELIVERIES

Look at www.green-link.co.uk/luton.html This scheme is running in Luton. Do you not think that such a scheme using cycles and electric vehicles would be ideal in Tring for doing such things as delivering pizzas and Chinese meals, besides milk and meals-on-wheels?

I can remember shopping being delivered by bicycle from "The Old Stables" in Miswell Lane, and this was both more reliable and more personal than on-line shopping from Tesco etc. And what about the tricycles which had ice-cream and a national slogan "Stop me and buy one"? Should we cry "Come back hawkers and pedlars"

And whatever happened to the cycling police officer? It would be a good idea if Tring had a couple of cycling PCSO's who could escort children wanting to cycle to school, in what is called a "cycle-train", as happens in some areas not too far away from us. A move like this would significantly increase the safety and the numbers of such children.

I will not go on about reducing "greenhouse gases" because this term is clearly wrong, since a greenhouse is a glasshouse coloured green to prevent internal warming. This is what happens in the Channel Islands (where I come from) where at one time there were more glass-houses than in the whole of England. Once again, as a Channel Islander, I have to advise you that the rest of the world is wrong, both on the term and on the mechanism. If this is the case (and it is) can we be sure about what has been concluded?

(Pause to talk to men from the "funny farm" who want to take me away)

BICYCLE PRODUCTION

If you go to www.chippynews.com:80/worldclock.htm you will be able to see what is alleged to be the number of bicycles (and cars and computers etc) being produced per second, as well as births, deaths and so on. This is admittedly the usual USA glib extrapolation of data beloved by the red-top "meejah", but is still interesting to look at.

FUTURE RIDES

1. Sunday 25 th November

TCC members are invited to join Berkhamsted Cycling Group's morning ride that will start at the Cow Roast Inn, meeting 10.15am for a 10.30am depart. The ride will go up into the Chilterns along quiet lanes returning to the Cow Roast in time for lunch should sustenance be needed before cycling home.

The ride will be led by **Tim Vaughan**, a TCC member, who can be contacted on **01442 872127** for more details about the route.

2. Xmas Lunch Ride. Sunday 9 December

For the third year running Tring Cycling Campaign is organising a Christmas Lunch Ride for members and friends. The format is relaxed with a leisurely ride through some of our favourite Hertfordshire lanes then lunch at the recently refurbished Greyhound PH in Aldbury. For those who do not require the stimulation of a ride beforehand just meet us at the Greyhound and enjoy the company and festivities. Details are as follows :

Venue is the Greyhound Inn at Aldbury

Sit down for lunch between 2.30 to 3 pm

Lunch is £13.50 (as last year) for Soup and Xmas Turkey. Your drinks are extra and if you fancy a Xmas pud or other culinary delight, just ask and pay the difference.

For those riding first: Meet at Church Square, Tring at 1 pm when Xmas decorations on the bikes will be admired We will then set off for a leisurely ride to arrive at Aldbury no later than 2 to 2.15 pm, in time for a spruce up and a swift bevy before sitting down to a hearty meal. There is plenty of room behind the Greyhound for leaving your bikes. **All the family are welcome**

What to do: you just let Roger or John know if you are coming, tell us how many and tell us if you are riding as well. Once we are told you are booked

Pay the Greyhound on the day

Contact: either

Roger Manley 01442 824271 or rogcycles@aol.com

John Boielle 01442 822575 john.boielle@virgin.net

OUR MEETINGS

If you want minutes of past meetings, details of future meetings, or to join in or contribute to them then please contact John Boielle. The next is shown below.

CYCLE USE GROWS AS RISK OF CYCLING FALLS

Cycle use is at a 10-year high, whilst the risk of cycling is at a 10-year low, according to Government statistics published recently.

Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007 shows that there were 4.6bn km cycled in Britain in 2006, compared with figures of around 4.0bn-km annually throughout the late 1990s. And there are now 374 reported cycle casualties per 100,000km cycled, down from over 600 a decade ago.

BELT DRIVES

As a motorcyclist as well as a cyclist I have been wondering why belt-drives have not yet been widely available for bicycles. They are lighter, and need no lubrication, and typically (on a Harley-Davidson motor-bike) last for over 100,000 miles. However they do not work well with derailleur gears.

I now see, from the Bike Biz magazine and website that Gates of Dumfries are providing these drives for "Spot" and "Orange" bikes that have recently been shown with great success at large bicycle exhibitions.

Many of the reviews of these bikes concluded that "this is the future".

Do you think this could be the way bikes could develop (especially if they got rid of the over-elaborate gearing systems that plague current bicycles).

Or do you have any other views on how to improve pedal-powered transport? If so it might be best not to let me know because otherwise it is certain that you could make a fortune (provided you do not let Yanks know, since their protectionist patent system allows them to easily steal ideas from others).

Visit our website: www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk

Next meeting: Wednesday December 5th at 7.30pm at 83 Dundale Road, Tring

We welcome any letters/articles/notices for the next issue.

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