



COGSnews

The Newsletter of the
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury

Include
cycling!

February 2008



WE DID IT! WILTON/ALDERBURY ROUTES MOVE FORWARD AS CONNECT2 WINS £50 MILLION

There was fantastic news for cyclists in Salisbury, Wilton and Alderbury – and indeed across the country – when it was announced on December 12th that the Sustrans Connect2 project had won the People’s £50 Million Lottery Giveaway. **Thanks to everyone who voted, and helped to persuade others to vote!**

The links from Salisbury to Wilton and Alderbury are just one of the 79 Connect2 schemes which are now set to go ahead. As a result many more people here, and across the country, will be able to get around on foot or by bike, helping people to get fit and active and to reduce their carbon footprint.

Here in Salisbury work will start with the formation of a steering group to see the project progressed within the five year time frame within which Connect2 projects need to be completed. Wiltshire County Council will be playing a key role in this project, where they will be supplying funding to match the Lottery money from Sustrans. COGS will be involved as the project progresses, and we will – of course – be keeping you posted.

HERE’S HOW THEY VOTED:

Project	Number of votes	% of total vote
Eden Project: The Edge	34,559	12.07%
Sustrans' Connect2	119,348	41.69%
Sherwood: the Living Legend	48,822	17.05%
Black Country Urban Park	83,556	29.19%

AND HERE’S HOW WE CELEBRATED:

COGS OPEN MEETING 25/3/2008

Sustrans – The Next Steps!

A talk by Judith Pope from the Sustrans Headquarters Ranger Support Team.

7:00pm on Tuesday March 25th

Followed by our regular monthly meeting – your chance to find out what’s happening and contribute your views on Salisbury cycling issues.

After this you are welcome to adjourn with us to a nearby pub for liquid refreshment & a chance to get to know your fellow COGS members.

Please note this meeting is in a different location from our normal monthly meeting

Room 2 (upstairs), Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmund Church St, Salisbury

Near to bus station & Salt Lane Car Park
Cycle parking available.

Getting our kicks on the A36? COGS members celebrate Connect2 success beside the A36 at Alderbury

CALL (or email) CLARENCE
Salisbury’s road surfaces are in YOUR hands
There are many poor road surfaces in Salisbury at the moment. Next time you swerve to avoid a pothole, remember - it won’t get fixed unless it’s reported!



LOWER BEMERTON & QUIDHAMPTON ROAD SAFETY GROUP

A number of lorries from Churchfields seem to take the shortest 'sat nav' route they can find to get to and from the industrial estate. The lorries making their way through the totally unsuitable road in Lower Bemerton and Quidhampton, combined with the lack of safe walking and cycling, have led a concerned local resident to set up a website and a working group to try and improve matters. Visit <http://ovrswg.blogspot.com> to find out more, to watch some fascinating videos of HGVs extricating themselves from Lower Bemerton, and to take part in the survey.

BIKEABILITY CYCLE TRAINING TAKES ROOT IN SOUTH WILTSHIRE

By the time you read this article, the first Junior school pupils in South Wiltshire will have completed their Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 training courses. The Bikeability course is the 'cycling proficiency test' for the 21st Century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads.

There are 3 Bikeability levels: Level 1 is covered in a traffic free environment and enables pupils to acquire the skills needed to make trips in such areas. It is a prerequisite to Level 2 which is covered on quiet roads; by completing Level 2 pupils will have demonstrated the skills and understanding to enable them to travel to school or to leisure activities on quiet roads. Level 3 is covered on busy roads, in real traffic conditions and is designed to equip adults, as well as secondary age pupils, with the confidence and knowledge to plan journeys to school, to work or for leisure purposes.

Training is provided by fully qualified trainers; within Wiltshire Bikeability is delivered by Wiltshire County Council's Road Safety Unit who can be contacted as follows: By phone (01225) 701970

By post 36 Lancaster Road, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6QT

By email roadsafety@wiltshire.gov.uk

Further information is available on the Bikeability website www.bikeability.org.uk

BIKE WEEK 2008 14 – 22 JUNE

Advance notice that Bike Week this year is from 14th-22nd June - get the dates in your diary now. Note that June 21st, date of the legendary COGS dawn ride to Stonehenge for the summer solstice, falls within Bike Week AND on a Saturday this year. Make this the year you see the summer solstice sunrise over Stonehenge!

Sunday Rides - Rides Leave Five Rivers Leisure Centre at 11.00am.

Often, but not always on the '3rd' Sunday – check out the website for latest information:

Sunday 9th March Langford (**note **not** 3rd Sunday!**))

Sunday 20th April Dunbridge

Sunday 18th May Tisbury

All rides start from Salisbury Leisure Centre at 11am and include a lunch stop at a pub or cafe. Distances are 20-30 miles on quiet roads and tracks. We aim to return to Salisbury by 4pm, but please bring bike lights in case of unforeseen delays. All ages and abilities welcome, but riders must be confident to ride on roads with some short stretches on main roads where this cannot be avoided.

SUSTRANS NEWS

Signs of Spring - The signage on the Sustrans routes locally have rightly been much commended – COGS are very grateful for all the work which our volunteer rangers Peter Durnan and Jeff Scholefield have put into this activity. 'Signs of Spring' is this year's ranger campaign to improve signing on Sustrans routes, the aim being to have checked out all the National Cycle Network by the end of April. COGS Sunday rides will be check out Route 45 to Amesbury (in February) and Route 24 along the Wylve Valley (in March) and towards Hampshire (in April).

All change at the top - Sustrans has announced that its founder and CEO, **John Grimshaw** will step down from his post later this year. 2007 marked the thirtieth year of the Bristol-based charity, which John founded in 1977. Although leading a growing organisation John has always found time to get to know people involved 'on the ground' and he will indeed be a hard act to follow.

Find out more about Sustrans – at our meeting in March (see overleaf) when Judith Pope, who supports Volunteer Rangers within Sustrans, will be visiting our group. She will be able to tell us about the wide range of cycling and non-cycling projects that Sustrans is involved with.

MORE MONEY FOR CYCLING

Secretary of State Ruth Kelly announced on Monday 21st January that £140M will be spent on cycling in the next three years and will help form more cycling demonstration towns – could Salisbury be one of the venues?

Mayor Ken Livingstone announces that he will spend £500 million over the next decade on cycling - the biggest investment in cycling in London's history, which means that thousands more Londoners can cycle in confidence on routes that take them quickly and safely to where they want to go.

Looks like the time for cycling has eventually arrived - now where's that pump!