



March 2009

# COGSnews

The Newsletter of the  
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury

Include  
cycling!

## Saddle up for the Salisbury Big Wheel

**A major cycling event comes to south Wiltshire on Sunday 29 March when the Salisbury Big Wheel hits town.**

This event is being organised on behalf of Salisbury District Council by Bike Events Ltd., one of the UK's largest organisers of recreational and fundraising cycling events. This is a sponsored ride in aid of Salisbury Hospicecare.

There will be two routes, one for families and the other for fitter cyclists, both will start and finish at Five Rivers Leisure Centre and will take participants through some of the beautiful and historic countryside bordering Salisbury.

The 12-mile family route explores the beautiful Woodford Valley, heading north into the ancient landscape of the Avon Valley with its earthworks and barrows and reaching Ogbury Camp before returning to the city.

The longer 44-mile route passes the Cathedral before heading west into the Ebbles Valley before following riverside routes back to Salisbury through the Nadder, Wylde and Avon valleys.

### **Ride details:**

*The start and finish at Five Rivers Leisure Centre athletic track in Hulse Road.*

*Starting times are 8–9.30am for the long route and 9–10.30am for the family route.*

*There is a minimum age of 8 yrs old to do the family route and a minimum age of 14 yrs to do the long route.*

*Entry fees are; children 8–16yrs –free. 17 years and above 8–£5 for the family route and £10 for the long route.*

*Refreshment points will be located along the routes where participants will be able to refill water bottles and buy other drinks and food.*

*All participants will be able to use the shower and changing facilities at Five Rivers Leisure Centre free of charge on the day of the ride.*

*All Salisbury Big Wheel riders are welcome to relax in the Cathedral Cafe after this event with 20% discount, simply show them your entry card whilst ordering!*

*Participants can register online or print off an entry form from [www.bike-events.com](http://www.bike-events.com)*

## Cheers! – COGS glasses now available



You've ridden the rides, you've bought the T-shirt (& the polo) ... you maybe even have a COGS water bottle. Now you have the opportunity to purchase a COGS glass (or several) for those cool refreshing post-ride drinks this summer!

Thanks to Jeff, our long-distance trans-AM cyclist, we are now able to offer ½ pint sized glasses engraved with the COGS logo for £5.

Contact COGS (details below) if you're interested.

### **Potholes**

Good to see that some of the potholes caused by winter weather have now been filled in. But there are still plenty more out there. Make sure you report any potholes you come across via CLARENCE (free phone 0800 23 23 23 or 01225 77 72 34) or via the enhanced website at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/gritting/clarence-roadwatch.htm>

where faults can be reported by plotting them on a map. Not just potholes either, you can also report missing signs, broken lights etc – there are 21 fault categories to choose from.

# COGSnews

## Network improvements

Some recent improvements to the Salisbury Cycle network which you might not have seen yet:

**Link to the Cattle Market site.** Thanks to the persistence of local councillor Brian Dalton there is now an extension to the shared use cycleway along the south side of the Netherhampton Road, from In-Excess to the Cattle Market.

**Green Lane.** The section of Green Lane between Pearce Way and Ford village has now been surfaced and “dragons teeth” are in place to prevent vehicular usage.

And note too the road markings, including the cycle signs, in the **Cathedral Close** have all recently been re-painted. A big improvement, especially in contrast to the worn markings on many roads elsewhere in Salisbury!

## Funding Concerns in Wiltshire ...

There have been concerns, as we move towards the new unitary Wiltshire Council, that funding for cycling infrastructure across the County may get cut back as one of the steps to try and balance the books. COGS have been lobbying via district and county councillors to try and ensure that, as a minimum, the Connect2 funding will be protected. We will obviously keep a watch on the situation and keep COGS members updated.

## ... meanwhile in Bristol

Greater Bristol was selected as the UK's first Cycling City last year and will be spending a total of £22.8 million to transform cycling by creating dedicated cycle lanes, better facilities and more cycle training for children. The aim is to double the number of regular cyclists in Greater Bristol by 2011. We hope this will provide an example which will be followed across the South West and the rest of the UK.

## Round Wiltshire with a what...?

Well you have probably heard of Round Ireland with a Fridge? Well how about round Wiltshire with a Washing Machine. Yes, local charity “Refurbiz” (see [www.refurbiz.org](http://www.refurbiz.org)) are looking for volunteers to assist cycling their washing machine round the Wiltshire cycle way – alternatively you can send them a donation. Contact Refurbiz on tel: 01380 829712 or email: [roundwiltshire@refurbiz.org](mailto:roundwiltshire@refurbiz.org)

## Connect2

Alistair Millington the Sustrans Area Manager for Wiltshire has informed us that discussions are currently underway with Wiltshire County Council, the Highways Agency and local land owners on identifying the most appropriate routes for the Salisbury – Wilton – Alderbury Cycleway. We will keep you posted on progress.



## Woodford Valley Milestones

Some of the milestones we mentioned in last June's newsletter (see above) are now in their final positions in the Woodford Valley – something to look out for when cycling this spring!

We are very grateful to sculptor Paul Wilson for his work on these and hope it may be possible to place more such markers on cycle routes in the countryside around Salisbury.

If any COGS members are interested in seeing more of these, or perhaps commissioning a milestone to celebrate a special occasion or to commemorate a loved one, do contact us.

## COGS activities

**Rides** The COGS summer rides will be starting on Thursday evenings in May, there'll be more information about with the next newsletter. There may also be some summer Sunday rides – we'll keep you posted.

**Meetings** The COGS committee meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Youth Hostel on Milford Hill at 7:00 pm. These meetings are open to all COGS members, or anyone with an interest in cycling matters. Let COGS know you're coming (contact details below) & we'll make you very welcome. We are normally down in the basement for the meeting & adjourn to the dining room afterwards to sample some of the wide range of bottled beers available. Do come & join us and let us know **your** cycling concerns!

## Koos Kaandorp

1951-2008

All who knew him were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden death of Koos on 31.10.2008. Koos had been active in COGS since the early days of the organisation and, as might be expected with his Dutch roots, was a keen cyclist.

Koos will be much missed by all those who knew him. Our sincere sympathies go to his partner Judith, to Koos' family, and to all who mourn this sad loss.