



COGS news

The Newsletter of the
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury

Include
cycling!

February 2010



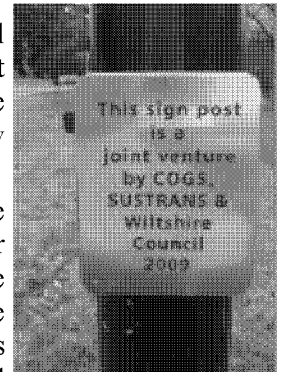
PARTNERSHIP WORKING DELIVERS CYCLE SIGNAGE

COGS have worked with Sustrans and Wiltshire Council to get two new signposts on a key part of the Salisbury cycle network.

The signs are in Churchill Gardens, one near the St Nicholas Road entrance (see photo on the left) and one by the new Sea Cadets building.

The idea for the signposts came from COGS, who also paid for the signs, and the finials were supplied by Sustrans. Wiltshire Council and their contractors supplied the posts and installed the signs. COGS member Jeff Scholefield designed and made the component which secures the square finial to the the round pole, and has also added the dedication plaques shown in the smaller photo.

Our thanks to all involved, and we hope to work with our partners in the future to get more signs installed on the Salisbury Cycle network.



LTP3 – COGS URGE COUNCIL TO FOLLOW DEVON'S EXAMPLE

Wiltshire's current Local Transport Plan (LTP2) includes targets to increase cycling by an underwhelming 2% between 2003 and 2010 and includes the statement that "evidence linking cycle infrastructure improvements with progress towards the priority objectives is not particularly strong leading to difficulty in justifying schemes to elected members".

By contrast, last November Devon County Council voted to spend £25 million in the period to 2011/12, noting that "the Cycle Exeter project has helped increase cycling in the city by 37% over the past three years and that the aim will be to achieve similar success across the county, helping people enjoy a healthier lifestyle and improving access to schools and businesses".

COGS have written to Cllr Tonge, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at Wiltshire Council to point out that Devon believe they do have the evidence which links cycle-related investment to increased levels of cycling. We will continue to try and persuade the County to give cycling the priority we feel it deserves and needs in LTP3.

HAMPTON PARK 2 – where are the cycle routes?

Planning application S/2009/1943, now published on Wiltshire Council's planning website, provides for an additional 525 housing to the north of Pearce Way. The developers hope for a shift to public transport or cycling to major employment sites in the city centre and elsewhere which are within 5km, an easy distance to cycle.

However, no new cycle routes outside the development and country park are proposed so please write to Wiltshire Council and ask for some direct routes to the city centre, railway station and Churchfields that avoid steep gradients and are properly signed. We would like a route that links up the Bishopdown to Laverstock cycleway with Cow Lane to avoid the busy London Road up to St Marks roundabout and a safe route to the railway station with reopening of the station's northern entrance to avoid the mini roundabout under Fisherton railway bridge.

COGS have submitted a response, but the more members of the public who makes their views known the better.

COGSnews

STONEHENGE VISITOR CENTRE

What will it mean for cyclists?

When the A344 is stopped up, cyclists will be able to access the former road route on a reinforced grass surface, so that we can continue to travel between Shrewton and Amesbury without using the A303. A gate to be installed at Stonehenge Bottom will be open to walkers and cyclists at all times. Sadly, the Highways Agency is resisting the installation of a proper crossing at Stonehenge Bottom, but byways within the site will have improved surfaces and will be closed to motor traffic. We continue to work with Wiltshire Council, Sustrans, National Trust, English Heritage and other cycling groups to improve the access in and to the World Heritage Site as part of a Rights of Way Strategy Working Group. The first meeting will be in Trowbridge in March. Cycle parking will be provided at the new Visitors' Centre and at the residual part of the old one (to be called the Hub and used as staff offices and storage).

CONNECT2

Things may have seemed quiet on Connect2, the major Sustrans/Wiltshire Council project which will see a safer link delivered from Alderbury through to Wilton. However much work is being done behind the scenes to try and line up funding sources and get agreement with landowners and other stakeholders. Things should move up a gear in 2010 as we move into design and consultation stages. COGS are involved on the Steering Group for Connect2 and will keep members involved of progress.

KEEP CONTACTING CLARENCE!

The winter weather has left Salisbury's roads in a dreadful state. Please help to make Wiltshire Council aware of the problems by reporting potholes to CLARENCE ☎ 0800 232323 or via Wiltshire Council's website.

ANY OLD BIKES?

Do you have an old bike in the garage or shed? This could become a lifeline for someone in Africa, and we are pleased to hear that Salisbury Rotary have linked up with Re-cycle who collect second hand bikes and ship them to Africa – more details at <http://www.re-cycle.org/>

The local contact for this is Ian Hunter – email ian.hunter@2plan.com (☎ office 01722 327427, home 01722 712634 and mobile 07770 727867)

Do get in touch if you have a bike you would like out of the way – it could be put to good use by someone who really needs it.

www.cogsbike.org.uk

Email: hello@cogsbike.org.uk

Tel: 01722 325608

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plenty to look forward to in 2010 – the following are some of the events of interests to cyclists which have been made known to us:

Easter Monday April 5th Ride to Imber

Assuming roads are open— 9:00 am start from Leisure Centre for 50 mile round trip. Bring refreshments as there are no pubs/shops in Imber! Details on COGS website or call 01722 321683.

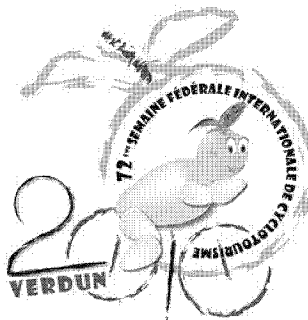
Sat April 17th Cyclenation Campaign Conference

The spring Cyclenation (formerly CCN) Campaign conference will be in Portsmouth this year. The theme will be “Future Cycling Cities”, focussing on how to put cycling at the heart of town and city life.

See <http://conference.pompeybug.co.uk/>

Sun April 18th Salisbury Big Wheel

This was a hugely successful ride last year, attracting over 400 participants and raising £6,000 for Salisbury Hospice. The event will be repeated this year with two routes – 45 miles or an 11 mile family route. The Entry Pack costs £12.50 (£8.00 under 16's) for the long route and £10 (£5.00 under 16's) for the short route. Discounts for team entry. Further details & Entry Packs available at <http://www.bike-events.com/>



June 13th Dieppe Raid

Why not enjoy a weekend in Dieppe for a cycle ride with the French. You can choose your organised ride 20k-240k. Usually the ferry is organised from Newhaven early Sat morning and the return Monday morning.

For further details see <http://www.dieppetour.com/> or contact Sandra Johnson spj3@tutor.open.ac.uk Entry and Travel Forms will be available some time during Spring 2010.

Saturday July 3rd Wilton Carnival

There will be a green and eco theme to the Wilton Carnival this year and COGS will be joining in the fun, as we did in 2009. More details to follow.

August 1st – 8th Verdun

Why not enjoy the first week in August cycling different organised routes around Verdun? The event and the routes are organised by the French Cycling Federation. Special very cheap camp sites are provided for the 12,000 participants.

For further details see <http://www.sf2010-verdun.org/> or contact Sandra Johnson spj3@tutor.open.ac.uk

AND last but not least –

COGS own rides programme

‘3rd Sunday’ rides are planned from March, and the popular Thursday evening rides will be back for the summer. Keep an eye on the COGS website for further details.