



COGS 'CYCLE RECYCLED' - A BIG HIT AT ST THOMAS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Margaret Willmot & Gill Anlezark put the finishing touches to the 'Cycle Recycled' tree

The COGS Christmas Tree made from a bicycle (which had sadly been damaged beyond repair) was well received at the St Thomas Christmas Tree festival in December.

Our thanks to all involved in this project—especially Jeff Scholefield, who masterminded the project and crafted the tree; Wessex Rehab workshops at SDH for the use of their facilities; the Lang family for the donation of the bike which became the centre of the tree and Caroline Rippier for the above photograph.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH COGS

All COGS members - and indeed anyone with an interest in cycling matters - is very welcome to attend our monthly meetings. These are held in the last Tuesday of the month, at 7:00pm, in the basement of Salisbury's Youth Hostel on Milford Hill (or sometimes outside in balmy summer months!). Meetings are followed by a sociable beer from the Youth Hostel's bar. If you do not get the minutes and agendas for COGS meetings & would like to please email Margaret (margaret@willmot.eclipse.co.uk).

WILL CYCLING BE PRIORITISED IN WILTSHIRE'S LTP?

The Local Transport Plan (LTP3) currently being prepared by Wiltshire Council will set the framework for transport spending - including investment in cycling infrastructure - for the period to 2026.

COGS have participated throughout the LTP3 process by submitting comments at the various stages when this is allowed, and attending a Stakeholders' Forum in Salisbury City Hall in December. It was pleasing to see that the report on the consultation exercise presented to Wiltshire Environment Select Committee on January 11th contained many references to cycling. Comments included the following:

- *more emphasis should be given to sustainable transport measures such as cycling, walking, passenger rail and smarter choices.*
- *Re-prioritise the user hierarchy on many roads towards pedestrians and cyclists.*
- *Cycle routes need to be implemented between towns and villages as well as in them.*
- *Maintenance is important but should also include footways and cycle paths.*

It was noted too that a clear consensus emerged from the workshops that cycle networks should be considered higher priority.

As this newsletter goes to press we await a revised version of the Local Transport Plan. Hopefully it will reflect the high priority which the public give to cycling infrastructure.

In 2011/12 we are promised further consultation on a detailed Cycle Strategy for the County and a Transport Strategy for Salisbury. COGS will again be involved in the consultation process on these strategies and will continue to make the case for investment in cycling as a climate-friendly and healthy mode of local transport.

We have some way to go in this country. The standard amount of funding for cycling initiatives in English local authorities is around £1 per citizen, per year. In contrast Dutch towns such as Amsterdam are currently spending around £10-20 per head per year. Which might help explain why 27% of all trips in the Netherlands are by bicycle, compared to 1 - 2% in the UK.

IMPROVEMENTS TO SALISBURY'S CYCLE NETWORK

There have been some recent changes to Salisbury's cycle network - how many have you seen or used?

Hudson's field - COGS have been involved in dialogue with Salisbury City Council when their changes to stop cars accessing this open space resulted in matters being made **worse** for cyclists. Our latest intervention has helped to get a locked gateway across the cycleway here replaced by bollards.

Salisbury District Hospital - the shared use cycleway on eastern side of Odstock Road has been extended from Entrance A to Entrance B.




St Mark's Path connecting Bishopdown to Old Sarum. The section of this path leading down to Old Castle Road has now been tarmaced.


Estcourt Road/Bourne Hill/Ring Road junction - following a number of accidents involving cyclists COGS have championed junction changes to improve safety - these have now been implemented.


Rowbarrow - new shared use path on the south side of Rowbarrow from the new estate to Odstock Rd.


There are further changes in the pipeline - the Highways Agency are starting work imminently on a shared use path from Park Wall to the A30 roundabout on the northern side of the A36.

COGSnews

 There was a well attended consultation on 11th January in Quidhampton Village Hall to consider the planned link from Edgam Place Quidhampton to Park Wall junction. The proposals were generally well received and we are hopeful these changes can be taken forward.

 Unfortunately it has been concluded that it will not be possible to implement the **Churchfields Road** changes mentioned in our last newsletter due to difficulties in fitting an acceptable scheme into the available road space and problems with traffic flows identified during trial traffic calming.

 The Downton Road bus lane, which cyclists will be permitted to use, is likely to go ahead. This is being funded by the developers of the Rowbarrow estate.

 Three further milestones will shortly be in place on the Sustrans routes around Salisbury. Our thanks to sculptor Paul Wilson at Fisherton Mill for his enthusiasm and craftsmanship which has produced these works of art, and to the individuals and businesses who have sponsored these additional milestones. Contact COGS or Paul directly if you are interested in sponsoring a milestone.

SUMMER CYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

Details of the popular summer Thursday evening rides will be sent with the next newsletter.

For those who would like to try something different, at home or abroad, the following cycling expeditions are also planned for summer 2011 :

Dieppe Raid 11th—13th June

For more details of this annual event see <http://www.dieppetour.com/>. If you are interested in going contact Sandra (s.p.johnson@open.ac.uk.)

Larmer Tree Festival July 13th—17th

Following a successful trip by four Coggies last year we are planning another visit to this delightful - and relatively local - festival. Contact Margaret (margaret@willmot.eclipse.co.uk).

Flers July 31st—August 7th

Flers, in the Orne department of Basse-Normandie, is about 60km from Caen. This town is hosting the 73e semaine federale internationale de cyclotourisme - see <http://www.ffct.org/index.php?id=48>

There are organised rides each day but participants can do as much or as little cycling as they wish, and can attend for all or part of the week.

Accommodation is usually camping but alternatives may be available.

Contact Sandra (s.p.johnson@open.ac.uk.)

Keep an eye on the COGS website for up to date news and details of rides and events.