



COGSnews

The Newsletter of the
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury

Include
Cycling!

September 2011

COGS "BEASTLY CYCLISTS" ARE WILTON WINNERS

Thanks to all who took part in the Connect2 ride from Alderbury to Wilton for the Carnival event on July 2nd. The theme of the Carnival this year was the animal kingdom, and COGS were delighted to be winners – as last year – in their category. Our thanks to Tim Kidner for his excellent photos of the event, including the one shown on the right where COGS are seen receiving their prize from the Mayor of Wilton.



SAFER CYCLING TO STONEHENGE? CYCLISTS' CONCERNS RAISED AT A344 STOPPING UP INQUIRY

Anyone who has tried to go by bicycle from Salisbury to

Stonehenge will appreciate the dangers currently faced by cyclists, and indeed pedestrians. The Woodford Valley is delightful, but the busy A303 is a dangerous barrier with the options of a risky crossing at Stonehenge Bottom, or a lengthy detour though Amesbury to cross the A303 via an overbridge or underpass.

The planning application for the new Visitor Centre provided reassurances that access to the attraction by cyclists and walkers would be encouraged, and one of the conditions attached to approval of the planning application S/2009/1527/FULL dated 23/6/10 was that "No development shall commence until (i) details of the pedestrian and cycle route along the whole of the A344, including crossing arrangements at the A303 (Stonehenge Bottom) and (ii) a scheme for reviewing such access and crossing arrangements, have been submitted to and approved (in consultation with the Highways Agency) in writing by the local planning authority."

As yet there has been no attempt to design a safe crossing point across the A303 and indeed the Highways Agency, who are responsible for the road, have put on record that they consider the current informal crossing point at Stonehenge Bottom dangerous and they do not want to encourage crossing of the A303 here. Current plans show the hatching in the middle of the road will be removed when the A344 is stopped up (since no vehicles will be doing a tight turn from the A303 here).

At the inquiry in June into the A344 stopping up order the case was put by cyclists and others that the stopping up order should **not** be granted because the proposals to remove the hatched traffic island would make things even more dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. We are grateful to Alan Clarke for presenting the case for cyclists at the inquiry, and we await the outcome when the Inspector presents his report.

Monday 24th October, 7:00 p.m.
Quaker Meeting House
51 Wilton Road, Salisbury, SP2 7EP

Cycling South Wiltshire's Rights of Way

*Nick Cowen, Wiltshire Council Rights of
Way Officer, has kindly agreed to join us
for a discussion of some of the issues*

Followed by COGS AGM

Admission free – all welcome.

MARTIN MOTTRAM

COGS were saddened to hear the news that Martin Mottram died on 3rd September. Until recent years when poor health took its toll Martin was an active campaigner for COGS as well as being involved with many other organisations and activities in Salisbury. It was largely thanks to Martin's persistent badgering of the Council that Piggy Lane - connecting Southampton Road to Milford Mill Lane - was cleared and made good for cyclists to use in the 1990s. This is now a key part of the Golden Way cycle route.

Martin continued cycling well into his 80s and he showed remarkable spirit even when poor health and immobility had confined him to a nursing home. He will be sadly missed in Salisbury. Our condolences go to his wife Rafaela and his family.

🚲 Thanks to all who have participated in the Summer Evening rides this summer. These rides have once again proved very successful, attracting up to 20 riders each week, and continuing on into September, after the end of the official programme, due to people's reluctance to break the habit! It has been calculated that over 2,200 cyclist-miles have been pedalled during the Summer Evening rides - further than Lands End to John O'Groats and back!

🚲 COGS members have also been cycling further afield this summer with destinations including Scotland, the USA and France. Various Coggies cycled to the international festival of cyclo tourism at Flers in Normandy at the start of August where they joined with over 13,000 fellow cyclists in a week long celebration of all things cycling.

🚲 The Highways Agency have been busy on Wilton Road. The stretch of shared use cycleway on the northern side of the A36 at Wilton is now complete and there are also various informal crossing points along the road and a cycle lane marked in the stretch heading towards St Pauls roundabout.

TRIAL LIFTING OF 'NO CYCLING' RESTRICTIONS ON TOWN PATH

Following public consultation Wiltshire Council have decided to lift the 'No Cycling' orders on the parts of Town Path where these are currently in effect—over Long Bridge and from Rose Cottage round to the Old Mill pub.

Concerns have been expressed regarding safety issues and potential cyclist pedestrian conflict, especially near the Harnham end of the path. However WC propose to take steps—such as adding mirrors and signs— to try and minimise the risks.

Sustrans publish some guidelines for cycling on shared use paths which cyclists on Town Path (and on other shared use paths in Salisbury) would be well advised to follow:

- *give way to pedestrians, leaving them plenty of room*
- *keep to your side of any white dividing line*
- *slow down when passing pedestrians and be prepared to stop if necessary*
- *don't expect to cycle at high speeds*
- *be careful at junctions, bends and entrances*
- *remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired. Don't assume they can see or hear you.*
- *fit a bell and use it. Don't surprise people!*
- *where there are wheelchair users or horse riders, please give way*

It is planned to hold a cycle awareness event at Town Path on 25th Oct which will hopefully include provision of free bells for cyclists who need one.

WELCOME TO SALISBURY....

(1) COGS are pleased to welcome a new mobile cycle repair service to Salisbury. **Urge Cycles** can come to you to maintain or repair your bike. Nick has already sorted out problems with several Coggies' bikes so we are already feeling the benefit of this innovative new service! Visit their website at <http://www.urgecycles.co.uk/> or contact Urge on 01722 655011.

(2) There is a new cycle milestone in town. Previous newsletters have featured some of the milestones crafted by sculptor **Paul Wilson** at Fisherton Mill which are located on NCN route 45 in the Woodford Valley. We are pleased to note a milestone has now been placed on NCN route 24 in Churchill Gardens - near the children's play area.

Our thanks both to Paul for yet another example of his skill and to Hayballs for sponsoring this milestone.

Ride with COGS.....

Evening rides are over for another year, but there are some longer Sunday rides throughout the autumn/winter month. The following are planned in the period up to Christmas:

16th October New Forest ride [JW]

20th November Mystery ride (30-35 miles) [PG]

18th December The renowned Christmas ride, with a Christmas lunch in Salisbury. [RJ]

Bookings are needed for this, by 1st December, to Rob on 01722 320351 (or email jacobs@uwclub.net)

All Sunday rides above leave from the Leisure Centre at 10:00 - for further details contact COGS or see the website.

...and wear the T-shirt (or polo)...

COGS T- and polo shirts come in a wide range of colours—not just 'original yellow'. If you fancy one in blue, red, orange, grey ...or indeed yellow - with a COGS logo front and back, let Rob know (for contact details see 18.12 ride above). We need a few more people to place an order in order to get enough for a print run. T-shirts cost £5 and short sleeved Polo shirts £10. Don't be seen out cycling without one!

Bike seeks new home

Dawes Galaxy Gents Touring bike (suit 5'9") free to good home. Phone Rob 01722 320351 if interested.

'Cycle Recycled' tree returns

The COGS entry in the St Thomas Christmas tree festival last year - made from a recycled bicycle - will hopefully be back again this year. And some additional features are planned - to see if it all works out for us drop into the St Thomas Christmas Tree festival which runs from 29th November to 4th December 2011.

