



COGSnews

The Newsletter of the
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury
April 2012

Let's get
Salisbury
cycling!

COMING SOON...A36 CROSSING



A last-minute hitch has meant a slightly longer wait than anticipated for the long-awaited crossing of the A36 at Petersfinger. As we go to press we are still waiting for the crossing to be commissioned.



While the crossing will be a puffin rather than a toucan (i.e. there is no cycle shown on the crossing lights) it nevertheless represents a major improvement in safety for those wishing to get across the A36 at this point and COGS welcome it.

JOIN COGS FOR A SUMMER OF CYCLING

Olympic Year...Jubilee year ... and COGS rides will be celebrating these themes as you will see from the 2012 Summer rides programme enclosed.



We hope to see COGS members old and new out on the rides. If you have friends who are considering returning to cycling why not bring them along on the ever-popular Thursday evening rides for an introduction to easy cycling around Salisbury and to meet fellow cyclists in a sociable setting? Evening rides start on Thursday May 3rd and run through to August 23rd, leaving Salisbury Five Rivers Leisure Centre at 6:30pm each Thursday.

..HERE ALREADY - RESURFACED BRITFORD BYWAY

The right of way in Britford which runs from the A338 up to the hospital site has recently been resurfaced with road planings resulting from road resurfacing. Furthermore both ends of the byway have had concrete blocks placed (see picture) to prevent vehicle access & stop the fly tipping which has long been a problem on this route. This now provides a useful all weather link, and our thanks go to Nick Cowen, WC's senior rights of way warden for the southern area, who organised this work.



COGS COMMUNICATIONS – MOVING INTO THE DIGITAL AGE

COGS are reviewing the mode and frequency of communications with our members in the light of both the increasing use of email and the internet and the ever-rising cost of postage.

We have decided that with effect from the current renewals we will try and communicate via email as much as possible – so we would be grateful if members would give us their email address (clearly printed) when renewing. Please note that COGS will **not** share your email address with others and we keep email communications to a minimum. We try and update members by email no more than once a month, and we endeavour to keep information on our website up to date.

For those without internet access, we will continue to send out a newsletter with the rides programme and renewals each spring and also to update you when we announce the AGM date and details in the autumn.

All COGS members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings, held (generally) on the last Tuesday of each month. To receive the agenda and minutes contact COGS (see details below).

COGSnews

- 🚲 COGS continue to submit representations on planning applications and other documents when we feel cycling opportunities are being lost. Comments have recently been submitted in respect of the planning application for Sarum Academy and also for the pre-Submission consultation on the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
- 🚲 A successful application by Wiltshire Council & Wilts & Dorset to the Government's Better Bus Area fund may lead to better facilities for cyclists who use the buses. More than £1.3 million of funding for improved bus services around Salisbury has been secured and one of the ideas likely to be pursued is a "bike to bus" scheme including secure cycle facilities at key bus stops.
- 🚲 PIGS are back! The Paths Improvement Grant scheme for Wiltshire will have around £60K available in 2012 for 'innovative improvement to countryside access'. See <http://www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk/> for more details of match funding requirements etc.

“CITIES FIT FOR CYCLING”

The Times started its 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign when one of their journalists, Mary Bowers, was tragically involved in an accident with a lorry only yards from the Times office while riding her bicycle. The accident was on Nov 4th and Mary is still in hospital and may never fully recover.

Thousands of people have pledged to support the Times campaign for safer cycling, and there is now an interactive map available on their website where locations where accidents have occurred are shown and hazards perceived by cyclists on the road network can be highlighted. See www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/contact/ Various junctions in Salisbury have already been added, feel free to add those that concern you: it can only help to have these highlighted as part of a high profile national campaign.

While the Times campaign has been very beneficial in raising cycle safety issues it has also raised concerns about the dangers of cycling. It is worth remembering that **not** cycling is in fact more risky than cycling. The CTC 'Safety in Numbers' campaign in 2009 suggested that cyclists on average live two years longer than non-cyclists and take 15% fewer days off work through illness. Also, as their campaign title suggested, the more cyclists there are on the road the safer cycling becomes.

PROJECT ESSO 'S' (the 'S' stands for safety!)



The exit from the ESSO garage on the Southampton Road has been the scene of several accidents involving cyclists. One of the issues has been foliage obscuring the sightlines of motorists emerging from the garage and in February a COGS working party assisted Tom from SALTMO in clearing back this vegetation.

However this is still a location where cyclists are advised to proceed with caution on the cycleway – all too often motorists only look to their right to see whether there is a gap for them to enter the main carriageway and they may not even look to see if there are cyclists or pedestrians approaching from their left. However at least it is now easier for a cyclist to see whether a car is about to emerge from the garage and to take avoiding action. Further markings to make the cycleway more obvious here are planned by the Highways Agency

CAN YOU HELP?

- 🚲 If you are interested in becoming a trained Bikeability instructor and helping to train today's children to become the safe cyclists of tomorrow then contact the Road Safety department at Wiltshire Council Tel: 01225 701970 or by email roadsafetymeducation@wiltshire.gov.uk
- 🚲 Wiltshire Council are currently in the process of producing a Salisbury and Wilton cycle network. There has already been an initial consultation to which COGS has contributed, but there will be further opportunities to provide ideas before the network is finalised. Do please use the reverse of the renewal form, or email COGS, to tell us of the improved links or facilities (e.g. crossing point, cycle parking) which **you** would most like to see & we can pass these on. The WC website (go to the home page & search for Salisbury cycle network) gives more details of the ideas which are being sought.