

PEDALS

THE POWER BEHIND NOTTINGHAM'S CYCLISTS

Spring / Summer 2011

Pedals-founded Great Notts Bike Ride reaches 30!

The Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride 2011 will take place on Sunday 19th June at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. This will be the 30th ride, since the first GNBR, organised by Dave Law and Steve Parry of Pedals in 1982, when 250 people took part.



Over 4,000 riders took part in last year's event and the 30th birthday ride looks like being bigger and better, with up to 5,000 riders expected! The event is a great fundraiser and has seen local charities benefit year after year. The event charities for this year are:

- CLIC Sargent
- CP Sport
- Nottinghamshire Scouts
- RNLI

The Rides

There are four routes for you to choose from that take in some of the most stunning scenery that Nottinghamshire has to offer. There is something for everyone, no matter your age, ability or level of fitness.

- 72 Mile Sportive
- 58 Mile Challenge
- 19 Mile Community Ride
- Family Lap Challenge

There are a variety of rest stops and feed stations along every route where you will be able to enjoy the entertainment on offer while you refuel.

Because of the disruption of the major A46 dualling road works in the Bingham to Newark area the route for this year has had to be diverted to avoid the A46 completely, with more use of Gunthorpe Bridge by all the Rides, as well as other route changes in the Thurgarton – Southwell area, etc.





BE PART OF THE GREAT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIKE RIDE **SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2011** NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE. RIDES AVAILABLE:

75 mile sportive

50 mile challenge

18 mile community ride

Family lap challenge



PHONE 0115 807 7980 OR 0115 807 7989 OR APPLY ONLINE AT
WWW.GREATNOTTSBIKERIDE.COM

Closing date for receipt of entries: 10 June 2011. On the day entries will be available.

Official Charity Partners:



Lifeboats

Event Partners:



Nottingham City Council



National Water Sports Centre NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



PERFECT MOTION

Notts County Council took over organisation of the Ride from Pedals in 1985 and ran it until 2010. As part of their cutbacks they decided to cease active support but are still partners in promoting the event.

The main organisation has now been taken over by Perfect Motion and Pennine Events, with strong support from Pedals and several other local organisations and including Nottingham City Council.

This year's ride again includes a Corporate Challenge, targeted at local businesses – more information from Melanie Berry at mel@very-berry.org

Perfect Motion are very keen to grow the GNBR much more from next year, before when they will have much more time to plan some major changes, including a possible series of other related cycling events around the time of the Ride. Watch this space!

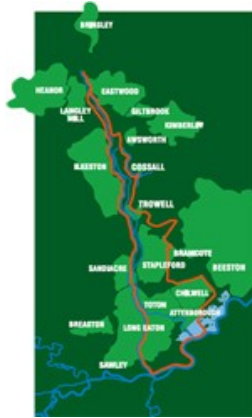


- To enter this year's Ride go to www.greatnottsbikeride.com

Erewash Valley Trail to open in June

This is a circular route for walkers and cyclists which takes in over 30 miles of waterway and countryside on the Notts/Derbyshire border. It is well-marked with orange Trail signs and has useful interpretation boards. The official opening is due to take place during the Hemlock Happening at Bramcote Hills Park on Saturday 11 June.

The western side of the Trail, in Derbyshire, follows the Erewash Canal towpath from Trent Lock northwards towards the Langley Mill basin. There are minor detours away



from the towpath at Tamworth Road and just north of Long Eaton, where the route follows the Nutbrook Trail along the flood bank next to the canal.

The eastern side is mainly in Notts, starting from the Langley Mill basin, where the Trail joins

a short section of Derby Road, before following Anchor Road southwards along the A5120 to link to an open space and disused section of the Nottingham Canal.

It then follows the bridleway network through a wide section of the valley passing by Cotmanhay and connecting with a section of the Nottingham canal at Awsworth which is still in water.



From here the route follows the towpath southwards to Coventry Lane and a short section of roadside cycleway, before passing through a corner of Bramcote Hills Park. The route then leaves the Park and follows Stanley Drive and quiet estate roads to open countryside and into Chilwell, connecting with Cator Lane and Long Lane on its way to Attenborough Village.



Once renowned for mining and lace mills, the area has inspired great names like author D.H Lawrence, designer Paul Smith, and actor Robert Lindsay. Cleaner waterways have seen a rebirth over recent years as otters and salmon return and regular sightings of bitterns and water voles. Why not get out and enjoy it very soon?

For further information:

- see the website: www.erewashvalleytrail.co.uk
- contact Steve Fisher at Broxtowe BC on (0115) 917 7777 email: steve.fisher@broxtowe.gov.uk
- pick up the handy leaflet / map at various locations including the Notts. Wildlife Trust office at the Old Ragged School in Sneinton Market

From here the route then runs very close to the Attenborough Wildlife Centre, then turns towards the River Trent following the river upstream to Cranfleet Lock and back to Trent Lock. Broxtowe Borough Council has been taking the lead on EVT route development, but through a strong partnership, including:-

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- NHS Nottinghamshire County (Broxtowe)
- Notts and Derbs. County Councils
- Erewash Borough Council
- British Waterways,
- Environment Agency

The EVT partners have been working together to enhance the biodiversity, amenity and healthy living opportunities in the valley and recognising the unique character of the area.

Substantial financial support from the 6C's Green Infrastructure Fund as well as partner contributions, have enabled work to improve habitats and access in the valley and promote the opportunities it offers. It offers good access to the fantastic wildlife and heritage features which make this area so interesting.



New Ridewise Rural Rides for All Programme arrangements and website gets underway

Ridewise has now taken over from Notts County Council as the organiser of the Guided Rural Rides programme, now known as Rural Rides for All, and using mainly electronic methods of publicity



LOTTERY FUNDED

Pedals is heavily involved in the new arrangements and was recently awarded funding by The Big Lottery Awards for All

scheme for a Sessional worker, Helen McCullen, to work closely with Ridewise in the next few months (on a part-time casual and flexible basis) on promoting the newRides arrangement, including developing contacts with many different groups throughout the county, regular liaison with Ride leaders and participants, and helping then both to market further the rides and get feedback on the programme.

Very many thanks are due in particular to Peter Briggs from Pedals and Gary Smerdon-White from Ridewise for their enormous efforts which resulted in this successful Awards for All funding bid. Pedals and Ridewise representatives are involved in a management group to carry this new initiative forward.

Thanks also to all those people who have volunteered to lead rides. Offers from other people are always welcome –

Contact Helen McCullen:

ruralridesforall@ridewise.org.uk

To find out more on the Rural Rides for All programme go to www.ridewise.org.uk and click on the 'Rural Rides' button.



Nottingham Station cycle compound – smart card area access proposal

To help further with the security of the Nottingham Station Bike Compound opened last July on the north side of the Station in the former Milk Dock area plans are now being drawn up for the eastern half to be accessible only by smart cards.



There are also plans to improve signing of the Compound from outside the Station and we also want to see its existence publicised clearly on internal signs.

- *For more information on these plans contact Keith Morgan at the City Council:*
Keith.Morgan@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Clifton-Wilford cycling commuter corridor improvements

Work is nearly complete on a series of very welcome improvements for cyclists on the 'commuter corridor' route between Clifton and the City Centre via Wilford.

Pedals was consulted on these plans which include improved cycle facilities at the junction of Main Road, Wilford and Wilford Lane, as well as the nearby Clifton Lane cycle path in the Clifton Bridge-Wilford area, and toucan crossing and Advanced Stop Lanes at the junction of Maid Marian Way with Canal Street.

commuter cycle route

Clifton



Some of these facilities in the City Centre will be affected by the recently announced revised plans for the redevelopment of the Broad Marsh Centre, including smaller blocks and wider pedestrian avenues, We would like to see shared use for cyclists on these, especially on the route between Carrington Street and Listergate, which could offer a much gentler, more direct and convenient route into the City Centre from Nottingham Station and other areas to the south.

Trowell Road cycle lanes setback

We were disappointed to see the recent degradation of part of the fairly good cycle lanes on Trowell Road by the installation of pavement build-outs as part of a new Safe Routes to School signalled crossing near Birchwood Avenue and Trowell Road. We have now met the City Council to discuss this. (see photo).

It seems to be a classic case of one part of the City Council deciding on a project in isolation from those responsible for cycling and showing no awareness of the extra inconvenience and possible dangers this has caused for cyclists approaching on Trowell Road and having either to pull out to avoid the build-outs and go behind the crossing and lose their priority at the side road crossing.

Even though this problem has now been recognised it is very unlikely we gather, with all the spending cuts, of there being any money now to make the situation much better again!



Other City (and County) Council consultation with Pedals

Earlier this year we made detailed responses to the consultation by both the City and County Councils on their **new Local Transport Plans**. This may seem a very dry subject but the LTPs are crucial documents in setting out local transport priorities for several years;

The major funding cuts make it very uncertain anyway just how much money there will be in future to promote cycling, especially by the County Council, but we are determined to raise the profile of cycling in local transport, and to see that cycling benefits from what funding is still available.

One important source of possible new funding is the Government's new **Local Sustainable Transport Fund** and we, like Sustrans, have been involved in discussions with the City Council about their bid for this. There is likely to be a lot of competition, we are well aware!



Another document on which the City Council has recently consulted us is their **Draft Statement of Policy for the use of Barriers on Rights of Way**.

This review follows from a thorough consideration of their policy on barriers,

including the negative impact they can often have on pedal cyclists, wheelchair users and other legitimate users, and also a series of trials of different types of barrier carried out in Silverdale, Wilford, in 2007 with the help of Tim Pheby of the former Cycling England Local Authorities Professional Advice Team

More information on the Draft Statement of Policy for the use of Barriers on Rights of Way from John Lee, City Council, email: john.lee@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

County Council developments

While County Council money for specific cycling schemes has been drastically cut recently, there are a few schemes coming to fruition as the result of their past financial support.

This includes their share in the development of the **Erewash Valley Trail** mentioned on page 3 and, in the north of the county



It also includes their contribution, to the new **Sustrans Route (National Cycle Network route 647)** running across Clumber Park etc. from Shirebrook in the west to the **Fledborough Viaduct over the Trent** in the east and then shortly joining existing Sustrans routes between Newark and Lincoln, where it follows into Lincoln on

former railway and by the Fosdyke. The route in Notts is known as the Dukeries Trail



While very concerned about the prospects for more local cycling schemes in the County Council area close to Nottingham, especially with the **recent removal of cycle lanes on Musters Road in West Bridgford**, we welcome these developments and also the County Council's interest in introducing a series of 20mph areas throughout the county, including West Bridgford where we have been supporting the 'Bridgford 20' campaign organised by the West Bridgford Local Traffic and Transport Scheme.

Beeston Square cycle parking improvements

Thanks to strong support from Councillor Steve Barber of Broxtowe Borough Council (and a Pedals member!), as well as John Delaney from the same authority, we are likely soon to see expanded cycle parking in the Beeston Square area.



Local impact of the axing of Cycling England

Nottingham has benefitted greatly from funding support in the last few years from Cycling England, now axed as part of the Government's bonfire of quangos.

For 3 years, they helped sponsor the Cycling for Health Project for which funding support finished in February. Since the autumn of 2009 they gave support to the Sustrans Ucycle Project.

see www.sustrans.org.uk/ucyclenottingham

Initially this was for 2 years, but with its increasing track record, would normally have gained an extra year's funding to help consolidate the project. As it is this financial support will now end in November.

Some of the work of the Nottingham Cycling for Health project will continue on a lesser scale (see www.pedals.org.uk/cycling_for_health).

This includes the Bike Club bike recycling project run by the Framework Housing Association www.pedals.org.uk/bike_recycling

It is now based in Bulwell:
Bike Club
Lillington Road South
Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 8HJ

This is also the venue for the hands-on bike maintenance classes, with people working on their own bikes, run by Julian Bentley – details at www.pedals.org.uk/looking_after_your_bike



For information on the separately funded Broxtowe Cycling for Health Project, run by Ridewise, contact Adrian Juffs: broxtowecfh@ridewise.org.uk



Acknowledgements: Helen Hemstock, The Big Wheel and Sharon Scaniglia, Nottingham City Council (Night Light Organiser)

Nottingham Night Light cycling activities

Some photos of the various cycling activities at this year's Nottingham Night Light on Friday 18 February. Several people from Pedals, Ridewise and the Sustrans Ucycle Project took part in this very popular part of the event, which was coordinated by Helen Hemstock of The Big Wheel.



Open Street Map and Cyclestreets - report by David Easley

Motivated by an interest in mapping and a love of real ale, David Easley attended the inaugural Nottingham OpenStreetMap Pub Meet-up at the Sir John Borlase Warren on behalf of Pedals on 8 March. There were seven other mapping enthusiasts, including Jerry Clough - prolific local volunteer mapper and organiser of the event.

OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org) is like a Wikipedia version of Google Maps. It's a fully open source and crowd-sourced project. The data in the OSM system is gathered and entered by volunteers and is

freely available for anyone to use. Furthermore, if you find an inaccuracy in a map you can actually go in and fix it.

Topics of discussion of particular interest to cyclists were OpenCycleMap and the CycleStreets journey planner.

OpenCycleMap is a layer aimed at showing information useful to cyclists. (The layer can be seen on the main OSM page by selecting "Cycle Map" from the drop-down menu on the right of the map.) CycleStreets (www.cyclestreets.net) is an online application that builds upon OpenCycleMap and adds cycle journey planning and route photos. There are options for finding the fastest, quietest, or a balanced route.



The biggest factor affecting the quality of CycleStreets' routing is the completeness and accuracy of cycle route data. Local cyclists are well placed to improve this data and keep it up to date. The CycleStreets website has a getting a started guide for contributors (www.cyclestreets.net/getmapping/).

If there is sufficient interest amongst members, Pedals - having eyes and ears on the street - would be in a good position to co-ordinate the efforts of local cyclist mappers. If you are interested in helping maintain cycling related OSM data please contact David at easleydp+pedals@gmail.com

Workplace Physical Activity (Cycle) Challenge prize giving

The photo shows the winners of last year's Workplace Physical Activity Challenge, which ran from June to October 2010.



It was organised by Sports Nottinghamshire and The Big Wheel, with the support of Pedals and Sustrans, as well as the City and County Councils and the Energy Saving Trust. The prize-giving took place in November at the NFFC ground.

Cycling cracker jokes

(with acknowledgements to Mark Crossley of the Derby Cycling Group)

- *What is a ghost-proof bicycle? - One with no spooks on it!*
- *Did you hear about the vampire bicycle that went round biting peoples arms off? It was a vicious cycle!*
- *Which is the cheapest bike you can buy? A penny farthing!*
- *Why couldn't the bicycle stand up for itself? Because it was two-tyred!*
- *Which Elizabethan sailor could stop bikes? Sir Francis Brake!*

Pedals meetings and other events

See our website for details of meetings and general updates

www.pedals.org.uk/meetings

Please note that, because of the big financial cutbacks in local authority budgets, there will not this year be a Wheelie Big Cyclists' Breakfast in the Old Market Square, as has taken place on Bike to Work Day during Bike Week for several years.

There will however still be a Local Cyclists' Forum – keep an eye nearer the time for details of this both on the Pedals website and on that of The Big Wheel - www.thebigwheel.org.uk

Membership matters - New Membership Secretary



Pete Elderton has now taken over as Membership Secretary from Dave Clark.

His contact details are –
peter.elderton@live.co.uk or
membership@pedals.org.uk
tel. 0782 864 7221

Membership Renewal Time (from 1 May)

Please renew your subscription promptly and please consider renewing by standing order, to reduce Pedals administration, if you have not already done so.

Do get your friends to join. They can download a membership form from our website at www.pedals.org.uk/how_to_join. This can also be used for subs renewals.

Anyone joining, or renewing, can pay via Paypal. We now also very much encourage people, whether joining or renewing to complete a standing order form.

Don't forget the 10% discount for Pedals members at several local bike shops.

Help us please to keep our membership database up to date

DO PLEASE ENSURE THAT WE HAVE YOUR UP TO DATE EMAIL ADDRESS.

We still lack these for many members, despite several appeals in recent issues of the newsletter!

Because of pressure on our costs, we are now having to reduce again the length of each issue and, if these pressures continue, we may have to consider resorting to sending out future newsletters by email only.

PLEASE ensure that you do not miss out both on these and other important email updates!

Key Pedals contacts / officeholders include:-

- Andrew Martin, Facilitator:
andrew@veggies.org.uk
- Pete Osborne, Secretary:
peterozz@hotmail.co.uk
- Pete Elderton, NEW Membership Secretary: peter.elderton@live.co.uk or membership@pedals.org.uk
tel. 0782 864 7221
- Hugh McClintock, Newsletter editor:
Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com
(Hugh would much welcome offers of help in laying out the newsletter from any members with MS Publishing skills please!)
- For more Pedals contact information visit:
www.pedals.org.uk/contacts_list



More volunteers needed to help run Pedals stalls at events

Dave Clark has given many years of devoted service as our Events / Stalls coordinator but we have agreed that we now need to get more members involved in assisting at these events, to help use them more

proactively to help raise our profile and recruit more members .

We get many invitations to events, especially in the spring and summer, and, for these we need to get different people in turn to help running the Pedals stall at different local events.

We are always grateful for offers to help at these from local members!

- *If you can help with this or any other way, please contact the Secretary, Peter Osborne : peterozz@hotmail.co.uk*

New FAQs section on Pedals website

We have been getting an increasing number of general enquiries both via the Pedals contact email address (contact@pedals.org.uk) and the Pedals website.

To help deal with these we agreed at our AGM on 26 March to set up a FAQs section to give answers to the more common questions, and intend to add to these in future. See: www.pedals.org.uk/faq

The next issue of the Pedals newsletter will appear in November 2011

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