

# PEDALS

## FOR A CYCLE-FRIENDLY NOTTINGHAM



**Spring / Summer Newsletter 2019  
(no. 109):**

### **Pedals turns 40 and a new era begins!**

**This May marks 40 years since the launch of Pedals in May 1979, and this issue includes some snapshots of some of our activities since then (pages 2-3)**

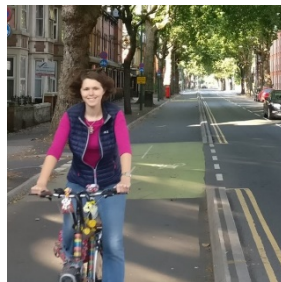
It also marks the arrival of a new Chairman, Matt Turner and a new Secretary, Emma Metcalfe, elected at our AGM in March. They both have extensive previous cycle campaigning in Sheffield and Emma has already done some excellent work in recent months on revamping the Pedals website and general communications.



**Introduction from Matt:**  
*I'm Matt, the new Chair of Pedals! I'm one of the lucky few, I love my journey cycling*

*into the city. I can cycle along a fully protected route all the way from my home to the city centre. I want Nottingham to be a city where everyone has this freedom, where our streets enable people to make their journeys safely and easily by bike.*

*The coming year will be an exciting one for Pedals. We have a new look, a new website, and a new energy. I want to give everyone more opportunities to get involved in Pedals and help us change our city for the better.*



Emma said:  
*"I'm really excited to be the new Secretary of Pedals. Nottingham is a compact city with massive*

*cycling potential. The Council has done good work to reduce motor traffic within the city centre, but we need a comprehensive network of safe routes that connect homes, workplaces, shops and local amenities so that more people can make everyday journeys by bike.*

*I'm working hard to improve the way Pedals communicates and increase our visibility and relevance to all kinds of people who ride bikes (or would like to if it felt safer)."*

## SPECIAL EVENTS FOR PEDALS 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Sat 8 June: 3-5.30pm, New Art Exchange,  
39 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green,  
Nottingham (tbc) -

*(see Pedals website for final details)*

Talk by Peter Walker who blogs on cycling  
for **The Guardian**, and ride lead by Susan  
Young, Pedals and Ridewise.

- For more details contact  
Mark Beaven:  
[beaven@ntlworld.com](mailto:beaven@ntlworld.com)

Sat 29 June:

Visit to London to ride on one of the newer  
Cycle Superhighways

- For more details contact  
Paul Abel: [paulabel@ntlworld.com](mailto:paulabel@ntlworld.com)

## A few shots of Pedals activities in our early years!



Launch in May 1979



First achievement – “wheelgrabber” cycle stands in the Old Market Square, 1980



First cycle route opening – the Clifton cycle route in September 1981, including new cycle path on Wilford Bridge (pre-tram!)

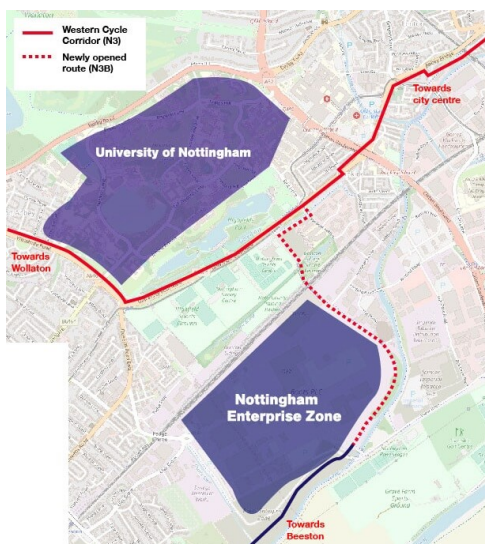


Organising the first Great Notts Bike Ride, from The Forest to Newark, June 1982



## Guided cycle rides from 1983. The County Council then ran these from 1984 to 2010.

These riders are holding copies of a new edition of our **'Pedal Pushers Guide to Nottingham'**. We produced 3 editions in the days when there were no Council cycle maps or other practical advice for local cyclists.



## New route openings in 2019



### Doctor Stewart Adams Bridge (Thane Road – University Boulevard)

This very welcome new foot-cycle bridge over the railway between Thane Road (near the entrance to Boots and the new Boots Enterprise Zones) and University Boulevard (near the Tennis Centre) was opened on 9 March by Cllr. Jon Collins, the Leader of Nottingham City Council, a few days before he announced his intention to step down.

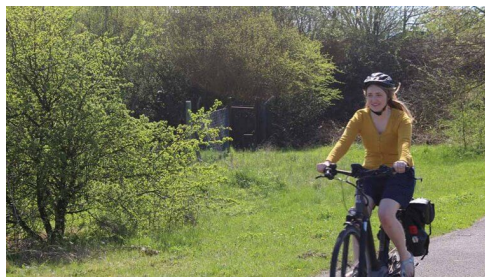
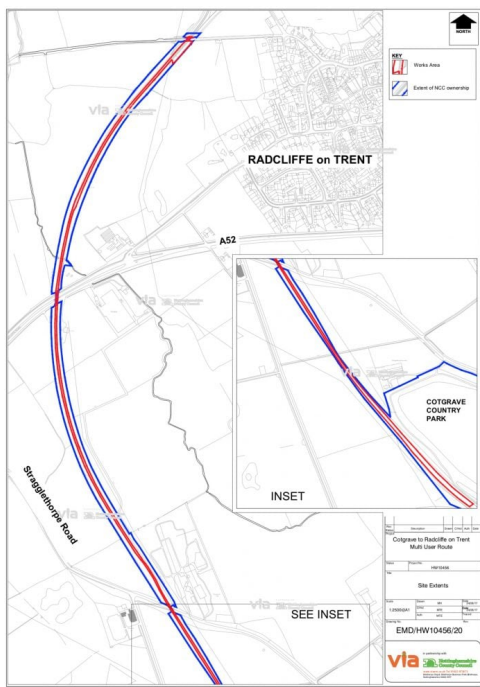
## Cotgrave Greenway



This 3km multi-user disused railway path between Holme Lane, Radcliffe on Trent and Cotgrave Country Park, was opened on 9 April by the leader (Cllr. Kay Cutts) and the Chairman (Cllr. Sue Saddington) of Nottinghamshire County Council.

This path also connects at one end to Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 15 and, at the other to the Grantham Canal towpath.





## New West Bridgford Cycle Route directions signs



We have had several complaints about the poor surface for cyclists, at least in wet weather, and are trying to find out whether any further surface improvements are planned in addition to the recent remedial work.

## River Leen path improvements



These much appreciated path improvements, particularly in the QMC and Birdcage Walk areas, were completed last autumn.

We welcome in principle the many new cycle route direction signs installed recently in West Bridgford, especially those relating to the new and upgraded paths in the Compton Acre and Rushcliffe Arena areas.

There are however some apparent oddities and anomalies with a few of the signs, as well as gaps, which we are discussing with the County Council. We are also pressing for the removal of some older very worn and/or redundant signs.

## And soon to come...

### Church Street, Basford



As we go to press work is nearing completion on changes for cyclists on Church Street, Basford, just off the Ring Road and connecting to the path opened in 2014 by the River Leen between Basford and Wilkinson Street by the NET Park and Ride Site.

When the scheme is complete we would welcome feedback, particularly as opinions on the value of this scheme at the consultation stage were divided!

### City Towpath improvements?

At an earlier stage of planning are several possible improvements to the towpath of the Beeston and Nottingham Canal which the City Council has been discussing with the Canal and River Trust.



We would particularly like to see improved towpath access points at Lenton Lane, Wilford Street and Great Northern Close, near the narrow stretch and blind bend where the towpath passes under the top of London Road.



### Revised Bennerley Viaduct restoration and path project now planned

We were very disappointed early last year when Sustrans narrowly failed to get Heritage Lottery funding for their ambitious project to restore the Bennerley Viaduct across the between Awsworth and Ilkeston.

However, we were aware that efforts continued to promote a scaled down version of this project, with close collaboration between the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct and the Railway Path Project (a sister organisation of Sustrans).



They have now submitted a planning application for this to Broxtowe Borough Council which includes a ramped access at the west end of the Viaduct, a 400m long path over the top, and, for the time being, steps only at the east end. We are hoping that these will include a trough for wheeling bikes until a proper ramp can be provided here too.

## **Pedals Better Bridges campaign working up ideas for improving cycling on Trent Bridge and Lady Bay Bridge.**

While our work, in close cooperation with other groups, continues to promote the new foot-cycle bridge over the Trent between Trent Basin and Lady Bay, connecting to extended riverside paths and major new housing schemes planned on both sides of the river, we recently agreed that the main urgent need for cyclists wanting to ride safely between West Bridgford and the City Centre should be improvements to the existing main road bridges.



We have therefore set up a Better Bridges Campaign subgroup, run by Paul Abel and Mark Beaven, which has come up with a list of detailed proposals we would like to see on Trent Bridge and Lady Bay bridge, and is now pushing the City and County Councils to consider these.

**For more information contact:**  
[info@betterbridges.org.uk](mailto:info@betterbridges.org.uk)



## **Riverside Path Claims – appeal for further help please!**

Last summer we had a great response to the appeal for people to complete User Evidence Statements to support the claim for cyclists to be able to continue cycling legally on the riverside path between The Hook, Lady Bay, and the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont.

This was coordinated by Steve Parkhouse of Nottinghamshire Ramblers with help from Pedals and the Lady Bay Community Association. Well over 300 valid forms were received and these are now being processed by the County Council's Rights of Way Section. It is a long process and could take over another year yet until this is sorted out properly!"







Now we are helping Steve Parkhouse get volunteers to fill in forms for another such claim, for the riverside path from Trent Bridge to Wilford, which, surprisingly, is not a legal right of way, despite being part of Route 15 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network.

This is a vital part of the Holme Pierrepont to Long Eaton *Trentside Path for Everyone* (walkers, cyclists, horse riders, family groups & mobility impaired)

We are working to get the whole route properly protected after a landowner in Lady Bay and another in Long Eaton tried to close part of the route. We have claimed those with massive public support. Now this section needs protecting as well.

If you have used this path regularly, on a bike or on foot, and are willing to help please contact Steve Parkhouse (Notts Ramblers), email:

[Stephen.parkhouse@talktalk.net](mailto:Stephen.parkhouse@talktalk.net) or Text 07783519304

## Local Police 'Close Pass' actions encouraging update



**Close passes by overtaking drivers can be among the worst experiences for cyclists and we had a very encouraging update on local Police actions to tackle this menace at our 15 April meeting, in a discussion with Paul Matthews from Nottinghamshire Police Road Policing Unit (Force HQ)**

He mentioned their new approach, with him and a colleague out on bikes and with high-definition image cameras to capture good evidence of close passes and other abuse.

- **for more information contact:**  
[paul.matthews@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.matthews@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)  
[pnn.police.uk](http://pnn.police.uk)

## Future Pedals meetings

For other forthcoming meeting details, including the discussion on 20 May with Matt Easter, Regional Director of Sustrans on their recent review of the National Cycle Network, visit

<http://pedals.org.uk/meetings/>

**For details of Pedals consultation responses and Policy documents) visit**

[http://pedals.org.uk/pedals\\_policy\\_documents/](http://pedals.org.uk/pedals_policy_documents/)

## Pothole or other problem reporting

See the 'Report a road, path or cycleway problem or fault' info on the Pedals website for appropriate contact details:

<http://www.pedals.org.uk/>



**Contacts for traffic signal complaints:**

**County Council (VIA EM):** Chris Gough,  
[chris.gough@viaem.co.uk](mailto:chris.gough@viaem.co.uk)

**City Council:** Dave Hulson  
[david.hulson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:david.hulson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

## Keeping in touch with Pedals – Website and Facebook

To keep in touch with Pedals visit our website, [www.pedals.org.uk](http://www.pedals.org.uk), which is regularly updated.

You can also follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pedalsnottingham>



## Discounts for Pedals members at local bike shops



Don't forget that with your Pedals membership card you can get discount at several local bike shops.

*A full list of local bike shops, highlighting those offering discounts to members, can be found on the Pedals website at*  
[http://www.pedals.org.uk/looking\\_after\\_your\\_bike](http://www.pedals.org.uk/looking_after_your_bike)

## Pedals contacts:

**For general enquiries email**  
[contact@pedals.org.uk](mailto:contact@pedals.org.uk)

**Pedals QR code for quick response access from your Smartphone to our Website!**



## Newsletter printed by Portland Print;

The Pedals newsletter is printed by Portland Print based at the Portland College near Mansfield. We deliberately use them in order to support their very important work for people with physical disabilities.

## Next issue

The next issue will appear in October 2019.  
(Editor: Hugh McClintock: email [Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com](mailto:Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com))