

# SPOKES The Lothian Cycle Campaign

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## Year of membership :

Dear ...

Welcome to your renewed or new membership of Spokes.

We hope you will find your membership enjoyable and worthwhile. If you are a new member, we enclose recent issues of the Spokes Bulletin and other items from recent mailings.

**We are a campaigning group seeking to influence government and local councils** (especially in Edinburgh and the Lothians). We promote cycling not just for its own sake but as part of a wider agenda of public health, environmental sustainability, accessibility to local facilities, and integrated transport. For example, we are more interested in a new bus/cycle corridor than in cycle racing or a new mountain bike facility you have to drive to.

**Our second aim is to encourage individuals to use bikes for everyday purposes** - work, shopping, leisure, etc. This we do in many ways such as our fantastic cycle maps of Edinburgh, the Lothians and Glasgow, our joint projects with the Bike Station and other such bodies, and our weekend rides.

**We are a voluntary body and we rely heavily on members in many ways - some are just occasional one-offs, some more regular. We hope you will play a part!! Here are some things you could do...**

- ◆ **Contact your councillor, MSP, the press, etc**, every so often on cycling and related issues that concern you. When decision-makers hear from individuals this not only raises your point, but also the general profile of cycling - and so greatly helps our central lobbying. *Politicians say that for everyone who writes to them they know there are another 20+ who feel the same!* The back of each Spokes Bulletin tells you how to contact politicians, or use [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Send us interesting replies - we often get useful info this way.
- ◆ **We are volunteers - please help make our life easy!** If you change address, phone or email, please tell us. Once a year (usually Feb) we send you a renewal form - please return it, even if your details have not changed.
- ◆ **Send us a donation at least once a year, normally when you renew.** There's no fixed membership fee - send what you can afford and what you think we are worth. If you are really hard up, a donation is not necessary - *the occasional letter to a councillor or MSP, as above, is even more valuable than a donation!*
- ◆ **Distribute Spokes Bulletins and posters.** There are usually 3 main mailouts a year, with the latest Spokes Bulletin and often a poster for an event. If you can regularly distribute more copies, for example at your workplace or by riding round your local area to leaflet parked bikes, please let us know how many to send.
- ◆ **Spokesworker & email action-updates : use them!** Between mailouts we have roughly-monthly email circulars with news of campaigns, events, and how to help. There is also an occasional fuller circular, Spokesworker - it is notified by email, but for a paper copy send us 10 stamped addressed C5 envelopes.
- ◆ **Be sure we have your email address** - we send out some circulars by email, sometimes about your local area.
- ◆ **Join email/twitter notification lists** [these are notification only]  
*Occasional Resources or Planning Group information* - [davedufeuATgmail.com](mailto:davedufeuATgmail.com)  
*Spokes Sunday Rides* - [stuartATsnowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuartATsnowcycle.co.uk)  
*Website notifications* - to be notified of all significant website updates, follow SpokesLothian on twitter.com or sign up to our facebook site, Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign (which also receives the above tweets).
- ◆ **If you're a car driver ...** considering swapping from AA/RAC etc to the **Environmental Transport Assn.** They do car recovery (+bike recovery) but they campaign for sustainable transport rather than for more road building. Also, you and we get discounts - quote Ref 1452. For info see: [www.eta.co.uk](http://www.eta.co.uk) 0800.212.810. If you live in Edinburgh, consider joining the **City Car Club** - no hassles on repair, insurance, etc! 0845.330.1234.

## Other relevant contacts - see also back page of latest Spokes Bulletin

<b>Spokes website</b>	<a href="http://www.spokes.org.uk">www.spokes.org.uk</a> Back copies of Bulletin and Spokesworker, submissions and news.
<b>Spokes Sunday rides</b>	<a href="http://www.snowcycle.co.uk">www.snowcycle.co.uk</a> / 0131 445 7073. Other rides: <a href="http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk">www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk</a> .
<b>Spokes maps</b>	From all good book or bike shops, at <a href="http://www.spokes.org.uk">www.spokes.org.uk</a> , or by post from Spokes
<b>Spokes factsheets</b>	<a href="http://www.spokes.org.uk">www.spokes.org.uk</a> : documents : advice
<b>The Bike Station</b>	DIY bike maintenance, cycle training, second-hand bikes - <a href="http://www.thebikestation.org.uk">www.thebikestation.org.uk</a>
<b>Sustrans</b>	National Cycleroute - excellent maps and many associated projects - <a href="http://www.sustrans.org.uk">www.sustrans.org.uk</a>
<b>Cycle Campaign Network</b>	UK-wide network of campaign groups such as Spokes - <a href="http://cyclenation.org.uk">cyclenation.org.uk</a>
<b>Helmets info</b>	We recommend <a href="http://www.cyclehelmets.org">www.cyclehelmets.org</a> for a full discussion and links to research info.