

SPOKES

THE LOTHIAN CYCLE CAMPAIGN

2A Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AR

Tel. 225 7752

THE GREAT 1978
EDINBURGH & LOTHIAN
BIKE
RALLY



A mass pedal-powered procession is to be held along Princes Street on Sunday June 11th. We are hoping for TV coverage and are expecting 500 bikes, tandems, tricycles, bike trailers, kiddy seats, and decorated pedal-powered machines of all types. If you haven't cycled for the last 50 years now is the time to get your penny-farthing out of the attic, and to repair the brakes on your solid tyred 1890s boneshaker.

If you support our aims come to the rally. Bring your children, your parents and grandparents, your wife, husband or lover, and all your friends. If you've time, decorate your bike and tie a placard to it or to your shirt. The procession will be followed by events and entertainments.

The police and the Council have been fully informed of the rally and it is being held on a Sunday for maximum safety. Please obey all instructions from the stewards and the police.

ASSEMBLE 2.45 P.M.

COATES CRESCENT [West End]

MONEY is desperately needed

by SPOKES for its campaigns and publicity. We need £100s, but if you can't manage that the odd 10p, £1 or £10 would be a great help. [Cheques crossed and payable to SPOKES, send to 2A Ainslie Place.]

AIMS OF THE RALLY

- To **celebrate** the great and continuing increase in cycle use.
- To **publicise** the benefits of bikes for individuals and the community.
- To **demonstrate** our concern at the appalling lack of provision for cyclists.
- To **urge** the Council to positively encourage cycling and start catering for cyclists' needs.

MEADOWS FESTIVAL

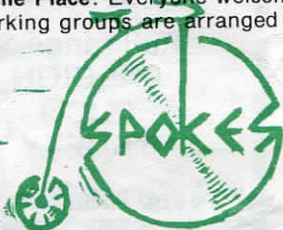
- See SPOKES on June 3 & 4
- Stickers, Posters, Bike books on sale.
- Bring old records, books, bike parts for us to sell.
- Sunday 2 p.m. - **SECOND HAND BIKE AUCTION** - Bring your old bike out of the shed to sell. 10% to SPOKES.

MECHANICAL PROBLEMS?

Bring your bike to the **COMMUNITY BICYCLE WORKSHOP**. Open every Sunday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 27 Drummond Street. We will provide help and tools **COMPLETELY FREE**.

SPOKES MEETINGS

General Meetings are held **fortnightly** on **Mondays** (June 5, 19, July 3, 17, etc.) at **7.30 p.m.** at **2A Ainslie Place**. Everyone welcome. Meetings of working groups are arranged by their members.



ACTION WANTED NOW

On May 2nd 1978 the Labour Party gained full control of Lothian Region in the regional elections, and are therefore responsible for Highways and many other matters of concern to cyclists. Before the elections SPOKES obtained statements on cycling provision from the major parties. These are available in full from SPOKES, but since Labour is in control we remind readers of their policies:

"The following are excerpts from our transport policy statement:

- All traffic management schemes* will be designed so as to avoid lengthening trips for cyclists. Road closures (e.g. in conjunction with bus lanes) will allow for the unimpeded passage of cyclists.
- Cycle racks (suitable for locking) will be provided in the city centre and at all other convenient locations.
- A study of other possible measures for pedestrians and cyclists will be undertaken immediately including the possibility of networks of cycleways and walkways.
- The implications for walkers' and cyclists' routes will be considered in relation to all new developments."

*Traffic Management Schemes are things like one-way schemes, bus lanes, traffic islands, etc., designed to change traffic movements without new road building.

Cyclists (and pedestrians) are urged to make sure that these policies are carried out soon. Write now, asking for immediate action, to Cllr. Mrs. Catherine Filsell, Transport Chairman
Cllr. John Crichton, Council Convener.
If you have ideas about provision in your part of the City or Region, write to suggest them, and quote any of the policies which back up your case.

NO BIKES HERE BY ORDER

A major rearrangement of traffic and pedestrians is planned in THE CONVERSION OF HIGHWAYS (BRISTO STREET; MARSHALL STREET, CHARLES STREET, TEVIOT ROW, LOTHIAN STREET AND POTTERROW, EDINBURGH) ORDER, REFERENCE No. P/RDS/4/1/LA/1.

SPOKES is appalled that in this area of heavy and continuous cycle use, **no consideration has been paid to cyclists.**

Some of the streets mentioned are to be pedestrianised, and the order specifies that they can still be used even by such unlikely traffic as telephone wire laying vehicles - but no mention of bikes. When will The Highways Department accept that it is possible [and most desirable] to travel without an accelerator, an exhaust pipe and a full wallet to empty at petrol stations?

SPOKES urges all cyclists to write and point out that cyclists **must** be considered. Cyclists should be allowed to use the pedestrian areas (which will be very wide), and a cycle underpass should be provided with the proposed pedestrian underpass under the new road. Objections must be sent to **The Secretary of State, Scottish Development Department, New St. Andrews House, St. James Centre,** to arrive by **Friday June 9th.** Write P/RDS/4/1/LA/1 on the top of your letter. If feeling enthusiastic, write to The Director of Highways too, 19 Market Street, to ask why bikes were not included.

If you send in an objection, please give SPOKES your name and address if possible (Richard Bryant: 556-8624). **If you want to see the draft order in full, call at the SDD, New St. Andrews House.**

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If you'd like to be on the SPOKES mailing list send us

THOUGHTS OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

A letter to SPOKES in late 1977 from the Director of Highways (Mr A. Crockett, 19 Market Street) stated "Pressure of work in the formulation of major transport policy has precluded any action [on cycling] so far."

This is a most ingenious argument. In fact if the Education Department took a tip from Mr Crockett they could say "Our main job is to cater for school pupils so we'll have to forget about Adult Education for a few years" and Social Work could say "Most of our clients are pensioners, so we'll not take any action on battered children meantime."

SPOKES says: COME OFF IT, MR CROCKETT!

POTHOLES

In our experience The Highways Department is very quick to patch potholes WHICH ARE REPORTED TO THEM. You can also get compensation if your bike is damaged by a particularly bad pothole. A SPOKES member writes.....

My advice to you to fill your favourite pothole is to write to the Director of Administration, Lothian Regional Council, 12 St. Giles Street, Edinburgh, naming precisely the location of your chosen pothole(s). If your bike was damaged, describe the damage to it (and perhaps to you) and state your intention to send them later a receipt for any necessary repairs. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DESCRIBE THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE POT HOLE. Let friends know of your success. Make potholes rule no more O.K.! After an accident myself, I took action. The result was one new wheel and a promptly repaired hole courtesy of the Lothian Regional Council.

**THOMAS PIPER
[PROP. A.G. SMITH]**

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MEADOWS AREA SURVEY

Cycle Use at 7 road junctions round The Meadows was measured by 20 SPOKES supporters from 7.30-10.00 a.m. on May 10 (a warm sunny day) and May 12 (cold and dull). As far as we know this is the first major survey of cycle use to be done in Edinburgh. This is really the job of the Highways Department and in future we hope they will do it. Motorists don't have to sit at junctions counting cars!

The number of cycle movements observed was 1307 on May 10th, and this dropped by only 15% on the cold day. Some cycles were counted at 2 or more junctions, and our statistical expert calculates that between 766 and 1090 different cycles were seen. These are very much minimum figures since many cyclists avoid the major road junctions by taking side routes and/or pushing their bikes.

Meadows Cycle paths

Our results, together with the 500% increase in accidents to cyclists on roads near the Meadows between 1974/75 and 1976/77, show the need for Meadows cycle paths. These would allow several hundred bike users to avoid some of the hazards at junctions and on roads round the Meadows. If properly designed they would not significantly endanger or inconvenience pedestrians. They would encourage more car users to change to bikes, so increasing everybody's safety.

More Information

Survey results - Brian Gilmore 667-2786
Meadows Cyclepaths - David Bellos 229-9831

NEXT LEAFLET - Contributions to *Dave du Feu*,
14 Breadalbane Terrace, Dalry, EH11 2BW.

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SPOKES NEEDS YOUR HELP

In the same way that the different parts of a bicycle work together to take you where you will, so SPOKES has different groups all working to fulfil our aims. **If you have time to help in existing groups or to start a new one please get in touch.**

CYCLE NETWORK - cycle routes from old railway lines, back streets, parks, etc. Rich Bryant 556-8624
SURVEYS - bike use and demand. How about your school or college Maths or General Studies class? Frank Howie 441-4902.

BIKE EVENTS - rallies, experts' forum, etc. Pete White 228-6249.

MEADOWS - drawing up, and pressing for, cycle path proposals. David Bellis 229-9831.

PUBLICITY - stickers, posters, exhibitions. Denny Collie 229-9292 x3827

PLANNING PROPOSALS - Making sure bikes are catered for in new road, traffic, and planning proposals. C/O Rich Bryant 556-8624.

POLITICAL - Lobbying Councillors etc. Dave du Feu 667-1011 x6826.

Other Groups are needed (Phone 225-7752 and leave message)

BIKE THEFT - There are 2- or 3 thefts per day in the Southside alone.

FUND RAISING - We are desperate for money.

AREA GROUPS - SPOKES Groups in other parts of Lothians.

OTHER IDEAS - If you see a need for a new group, tell us even if you don't have time to start it yourself. And how about some women group co-ordinators?

JOURNEY TIMES BY BIKE

Compare these times by a 32 year cigarette smoking SPOKES person to the commuter grind by car.

Waverley to Musselburgh (8 km) 21 minutes

Waverley to Fairmilehead (6 km) 26 minutes

Waverley to Marchmont Cres (2 km) 7 minutes

Corstorphine to Haymarket (4 km) 10 minutes

A CHANGE OF HEART

Scotsman readers will remember the May 5th letter from the Chairman of the District Council Planning Committee which ended:

"SPOKES can get lost and take its Commie friends with it. Who wants a proletarian dictatorship anyway? Not me and not Marchmont. - **Ralph Brereton**, Conservative Councillor for Marchmont, and proud of it."

Councillor
Brereton



There was a massive public response to Cllr. Brereton and the Scotsman (e.g. May 9th letters). So massive that Cllr. Brereton wrote again to the Scotsman saying he would look into cycle paths, and has now been in touch with SPOKES.

FIT FOR NOTHING

A government minister (**Harry Ewing**) took part in a Radio Forth phone-in about the FIT FOR LIFE campaign. Mr Ewing put his foot in it when he admitted he drives to a park to do his bit of jogging. As a caller said, if he used his feet (walking or cycling) instead of driving round in cars all day he wouldn't need to waste his time jogging. As the London Evening News put it, "Only a motorised society could invent jogging."