

Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact spokesATspokes.org.uk.

FOR YOUR DIARY

See diary in Spokes Bulletin 113 and at www.spokes.org.uk. Also...

June 27 Transition Edinburgh South 18:00, Eric Liddell Centre. Open meeting to plan TES future. TES runs practical projects and campaigns for a more sustainable South Edinburgh in all respects, including transport. www.transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk.

July 1, 11-4 Treasure Hunt on Wheels: North Ed Innertube/Postcode Challenge Collect stamps from various postcode points around North Edinburgh network, with big prizes. A shorter route for walkers. Volunteer help needed: Liz Stewart, Edinburgh/Lothians Greenspace Trust, 445 4025, lizATelgt.org.uk. More info later at innertubemap.com www.elgt.org.uk. www.thebikestation.org.uk,

July 6 - Sep 19 [or part] Ecotopia annual environmental bike tour - this year south France/ north Italy www.ecotopiabiketour.net.

SPOKES STALLS

Helpers needed: contact Judy.CantleyATbtopenworld.com 447 7108. Stalls marked '?' are not definite - depend on volunteers and other factors.

June 30 - Edinburgh Farmers' Market, Castle Terrace

? **July 1 - Inner Tube Treasure Hunt** [see above]

? **Aug 31- Sep 2 Edinburgh Mela** www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk

? **September [date unknown] Fauldhouse Festival**

? **Sep 1 - Livingston cycling day** ? **Sep 9 - Pedal for Scotland**

SPOKES ORDERS

Spokes Buff You can still order the excellent Spokes original buff, featuring an extract from our Edinburgh map. See the buff modelled in the 7 Dec 2011 news item at spokes.org.uk. Price £10.

PoP postcard All members were sent a *Pedal on Parliament* postcard [pictured] free in their summer mailing. You can buy further copies [10p each, 12 for £1] as a postcard to send to friends, or as a lobbying tool to post to your MSPs (you have 8 MSPs if you live in Edinburgh or Lothian - a constituency MSP and 7 List MSPs - find them at writetothem.com).

Spokes maps Special price for members and at stalls in June/July. £4 for any map (usually £4.95 or £5.95).



WISH YOU WERE HERE

Ordering and purchasing Buffs, Postcards, Maps

At stalls The costs are as above [see Diary for stall dates].

By post Add £2 for any order including a buff, £1 for other orders.

Collection If your order includes a buff, you can alternatively 'collect and pay' at stall prices from either of the following...

[South Edinburgh] contact judy.cantleyATbtinternet.com 447 7108

[Merchiston] contact martyn.edelstenATed.ac.uk 228 5830

MARKET ST: thanks!

Thank you very much if you contacted your councillors as a result of our circular about the council proposal to install 9 car parking spaces on the uphill section of Market Street - even though the Cycle section of the department already had a plan (with funds allocated) for an uphill cycle lane. Your emails have really raised the profile of this issue - very few councillors previously were aware of the cycle lane proposal - and we have had sympathetic feedback from individual Labour, SNP, LD and Green councillors.

At the time of writing, the relevant Council Committee outcome is not yet known. However, a decision on the car spaces seems certain to be postponed and full consultation with Spokes has been promised. The receipt of emails by a large number of councillors will undoubtedly help greatly and we now have a much higher chance of success. Given the delay, it's not too late to write now to your councillors if you've not yet done so and if you use this route.

COMPETITION 2012

This year's annual Spokes summer competition is *My Favourite Place by Bike*. Where do you love to go, or be at, or pass through, with your bike? It must be somewhere or something you can do, visit or experience in *Edinburgh or the Lothians, with your bike*.

Prizes include a ScotRail 1st-class return for 2 between any 2 Scottish stations; and prizes from **Edinburgh Bicycle**, **Kalpna Indian Vegetarian Restaurant**, **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions**, **Scottish Seabird Centre**, **Sustrans**, **Peter's Yard**, **Velo Ecosse**, **Reiss Hairsalon** and [to be confirmed] **Ratho Bridge Inn**.

For detailed rules, prizes, an entry form and other information see the June 15 news item at www.spokes.org.uk. **For inspiration** have a look at our previous competition results, such as cycling jokes, cycling recipes, and how I'd spend £1m to get more people on bikes. Go to spokes.org.uk: documents: odds&ends: competitions.

Please enter, and tell friends/colleagues. We'd like a wide range of entries, to use in a booklet and/or online to publicise the pleasures of getting about by bike in our local area.

Stop Press: Our external judge this year will be **Andy Johnson**, Manager of Edinburgh's *Camera Obscura and World of Illusions*.

EDINBURGH POLITICS

Council Transport Committee...

We already know that the new transport convener is **Cllr Lesley Hinds** [Lab, Inverleith], a powerful and experienced councillor, and former Lady Provost. Although 'too scared to cycle' she was very supportive and effective some years ago when there were attacks on cyclists on the North Edinburgh path in her local ward.

The **Transport Vice-Convenor** has now also been appointed - and is a Spokes member! - new SNP councillor **Jim Orr** [Southside/Newington]. Ironically, he is the person who captured the seat of former Transport Convenor Cllr Gordon Mackenzie - it would be great if he lives up to GM's precedent [Spokes 113]!

Also on the Transport Committee is Spokes member **Cllr Chas Booth** [Green, Leith]. The Green Party Transport Spokesperson on the committee is **Cllr Nigel Bagshaw** [Inverleith]

Message from Cllr Andrew Burns, Council Leader...

"As Transport Convenor between 2001 and 2006, I worked very closely with Spokes and I'm looking forward to being able to do so as Council Leader over the coming years."

Message from Cllr Steve Burgess, Green group Leader...

"During the election, Labour and the SNP, the parties now leading the Council, promised to maintain spending on cycling at 5% of the transport budget and to increase that in subsequent years. Whilst this falls short of the investment needed to transform Edinburgh into a truly cycle friendly city, it is still more than spent in previous years. Greens will hold the new Labour-SNP coalition to these promises and press them for the investment to £10 per head of population by 2017 that Spokes are calling for and that would see more of the Active Travel Action Plan delivered."

Your Councillors...

Find them (including picture and email address) by clicking *Find Councillors by Postcode* at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors. Contact them occasionally about matters that concern you!

SNIPPETS

Hawthornvale Path [Newhaven] From this path you will see that the splendid new Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop building is now finished and occupied [a brand-new, white building about 10m from the path at its closest point]. It has direct access from the cyclepath, and a cyclable (if steep) link to Hawthornvale.

Phase two of the development (to start shortly) will see the old buildings demolished and a new western extension added which will include more studios/workshops and a cafe open to the public.

Edinburgh University Sustainability Day, July 17, a.m. If you are staff or student at Ed Uni, consider attending this event. See the news item at www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability/news.

Public Bike Counters Many European cities now have public bike counters, showing how many bikes passed by in the last day, week and/or other time period. The political and promotional value of such a counter is illustrated in this article [with pictures]... www.cycling-embassy.dk/2012/06/06/cycle-cities-awarded-bicycle-counters

Spokes has long argued for a counter in Edinburgh, probably on Middle Meadow Walk, and this is included as an action 'by September 2011' in Edinburgh's *Active Travel Action Plan* [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/1528/transport_policy/548/transport_planning/4 page 29]. **If you'd like to see Edinburgh's counter installed soon** ask your councillors when this ATAP promise will happen.

Sustrans Active Travel Champions

Sustrans is training volunteers to champion cycling in their local community or at their workplace www.sustrans.org.uk/support-sustrans/get-involved/volunteering-with-sustrans/active-travel-champions

The training takes a day, and an Edinburgh session is likely to be held in July, with staff from Sustrans UK. If interested, contact philip.kearney@sustrans.org.uk 0131 346 9778.

Schools and Cycling The Scottish Government's Building Standards section is creating a 'sustainability standard' for schools and intends to include what facilities should be provided in and around buildings to encourage cycling. If you have comments, email as soon as possible to fraser.walsh@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Electric Cars Like several governments, Scotland and the UK are spending significant sums subsidising electric cars – yet public take-up remains stubbornly low in many countries, including here. Surely it would be more effective to use some of this money for cycling investment? Ask your MSP! www.mnn.com/green-tech/transportation/blogs/ultra-green-europe-slow-to-buy-electric-vehicles

Stop Press: Cycling Communities Fund Grants up to ~£6K to help local groups raise local cycle use. **Extended to 16 July.** cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Get Your Child Cycling Forthcoming Spokes factsheet aimed at parents of children old enough to cycle independently. On Spokes website soon; printed copies on request. Same series as our 2011 factsheet 'How to be a Cycling Family' about cycling with younger children: see spokes.org.uk/news/item/14-April-2011.

City Cycling Forthcoming research compendium by top cycling/walking researcher Prof John Pucher. This book is likely to be an influential reference publication around the world.

blousteinschool.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/city-cycling.pdf and www.ecf.com/news/city-cycling-talk

Here is an interesting preview of its *Women and Cycling* chapter... www.ecf.com/news/cyclingandwomen

Peak Car Evidence that car ownership and use may have 'peaked' in western urbanised countries (quite apart from effects of the recession) was mentioned in a 15.11.11 spokes.org.uk/news/item/ item. A Guardian article provides new evidence and theories... www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/12/america-motor-car-transport

Active Travel, Active Scotland Excellent report by Sustrans, Transform, Living Streets and other national Scottish bodies describing policies to meet the 2020 target of 10% of all trips by bike. Remarkably, even though the government-funded Cycling Scotland is involved, the report admits that we are not on track to meet the target, and calls for 10% of national (and local) transport budgets to be invested in active travel. Download the report or summary from www.transformsotland.org.uk 29.5.12 news item.

TAXI COMPLAINTS

We have been checking on how to report taxi incidents.

First, record as much information as possible – exact time and location, company, taxi number, number plate etc. However, even if you don't have all this detail, a complaint can still be made and it may well be possible to identify the taxi concerned.

Lodge your complaint as soon as possible after the incident, direct to the company, making clear that this is a formal complaint, to be processed through their complaints procedure.

City Cabs: info@citycabs.co.uk

Central taxis: customer.services@taxis-edinburgh.co.uk

Comcab: enquiries@comcab-edinburgh.co.uk

If you don't know the company contact **Edinburgh Licensed Taxi Partnership ELTP**, who should help identify them and get your complaint through. Contact ELTP via Central Taxis email address.

Finally, if you aren't satisfied with the outcome, or if it is taking too long, or if it is a very serious complaint also contact Edinburgh Council licensing section, 249 High Street, EH1 1YJ. **Phone:** 0131 529 4208. **Email:** licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk.

HELMET FEEDBACK

The article about creeping helmet compulsion in Spokes 113 attracted a great deal of comment – locally, nationally and even internationally! Interestingly, there was relatively little feedback from Spokes members. One would expect people who disagree to be more motivated to get in touch, but in fact only one member complained while several sent supportive messages. We have listed much of the feedback at spokes.org.uk – June 15 news item. Several non-members sent support, and there were 2 complaints - one from a US organisation selling child helmet decorations!!

We've now also produced a factsheet [front side pictured], downloadable from the web article above. The web article links evidence for the various points made in the factsheet.

If you can use the factsheet, please download or forward it or ask us for printed copies.

Incidentally, we had no wish to re-ignite the helmet debate. We'd rather spend our limited volunteer time in lobbying for better cycling conditions and generally promoting cycling. However we have now sadly reached a position where some major charity rides prohibit young adults unless helmeted, where some official websites and publications ban cycling pictures unless helmeted, and where some cyclists have reported being shouted at for being unhelmeted. This balance has to be redressed to avoid a negative effect on cycling promotion, and eventual compulsion.

SAFETY WARNING!



A cycle helmet may make you *feel* safer.
A cycle helmet may make you *look* safer.
But it may not make you *be* safer.

Whether or not to use a helmet should be your *informed* choice, and you should be given easy access to the main facts and arguments on both sides.

Published by: SPOKES the Licensed Taxis Campaign www.spokes.org.uk 7th Floor, 249 High Street, Edinburgh

June 28: RAIL CONSULTN.

The UK government is consulting on the future of all aspects of rail fares - the outcome is likely to affect Scotland, as well as your rail trips elsewhere in the UK. The consultation is relevant to bike/rail issues, so **please respond to it if this concerns you.**

To send in a quick response, the easiest way is to use this site... bettertransport.org.uk/fairfares/fares-review

If you have time to send a detailed response, see the long list of questions at www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-09.

For more info and ideas from Spokes, see the 23.5.12 article at spokes.org.uk : spokesworker and/or contact ewanATnavyblue.org.uk

STOP PRESS: STIRLING STATION BIKE HUB

Discussion is underway on a possible bike hub at Stirling Station. **If you use this station with a bike** please take part in this survey...

www.surveymonkey.com/s/StirlingCycleHub More info: angela.mitchellATksbScotland.org.uk 01786 468760 07720 090550