

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.

SPOKESWORKER

Spokesworker now comes out less often as we instead largely use a roughly-monthly email circular: we have email addresses for around 95% of members. When a new Spokesworker is produced it goes on our website and is notified by email - as well as being available in paper form at events and for anyone who has sent us a supply of stamped addressed envelopes.

- ◆ Make sure to let us know if you change your email address
- ◆ If we don't have your email address, can we use it?
- ◆ Remember also to check our website & twitter every so often.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Jun 11-21 Edinburgh Festival of Cycling edfoc.org.uk. Loads of exciting and innovative events, including...

Jun 17 Spokes Bike Breakfast 7.45-9.45, City Chambers, High St. Food, stalls, activities. Short speeches at 8.30 by Council Transport Convener **Cllr Lesley Hinds** and Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Cycling Group co-chair, **Alison Johnstone MSP**.

Spokes stalls – come along to buy a map or just to say hello. We always need more volunteers to help at stalls. If you can help, please email martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk or volunteer at a stall.

Forthcoming stalls...

- ◆ **Sat Jun 27 Canal Festival** www.edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk
- ◆ **Sat Jul 25 Farmers Mkt** Castle Ter twitter.com/EdFarmersMarket

Shakespeare by Bike Aug 18-30

The Handlebards are Shakespearean players who tour the UK taking all their costumes and props by bike – and even charging their electrical equipment batteries by hub dynamos as they cycle!

Their Fringe shows are part of a 1500-mile tour, London to Coupar Angus. They will perform open-air shows at the Botanicus plus shows on Aug 18, 19, 25, 26 where the audience cycles to a mystery destination – there will be 50 hire-bikes available. www.handlebards.com



THINGS TO DO!!

- ◆ We need one or two more people to **help with tea/coffee** at our Monday June 15 public meeting. You need to be available 6.30-7.30. Contact judy.cantley@btopenworld.com. 447 7108.
- ◆ Can you take **Spokes bulletins** to leaflet bikes at your work or at local shops, for this issue or regularly? Let us know.
- ◆ Are you going to an EdFoC or other cycling/transport meeting? Let us know if you could leaflet people as they arrive and we'll give you a pile of Spokes Bulletins.
- ◆ We have an active **twitter presence** @SpokesLothian. Please keep an eye on it and RT any tweets you support. Our latest tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ◆ Do your own local **lobbying**. One member read the item "Your Local Small Ideas" on p4 of Spokes 121. He then emailed his local Neighbourhood Team about an irritating **not-dropped kerb** that he had to cross every day on his way to work. *Next day* he received a reply saying the job had been agreed.

BIKE/RAIL #spokesmtg

- ◆ **Our public meeting, June 15.** Full details at spokes.org.uk [May 20 news]. *If you blog about the meeting* send us your link. *If you tweet about it* please use hashtag #spokesmtg.
- ◆ ScotRail/Abellio have published their **Cycling Innovation Plan** [CIP] for Scotland. It's a really exciting document – there's a link to it in the June 10 news item on our website.
- ◆ There's also info at scotrail.co.uk/cycling.
- ◆ Abellio **Bike and Go bike hire** commences at Haymarket on June 15. They have introduced it earlier than expected to help bike/rail commuters affected by the disruption below.

Winchburgh Disruption

See scotrail.co.uk/winchburgh : Advice for Cyclists.

For 6 weeks, Jun13 – Jul 26, the Glasgow-Linlithgow-Edinburgh mainline rail service is cancelled due to closure of Winchburgh tunnel as part of Edinburgh-Glasgow electrification [EGIP]. Trains are replaced by buses, although there will be 2 trains an hour Dunblane-Linlithgow-Edinburgh via Dalmeny – taking about 15 mins longer than usual (the train has to reverse at Dalmeny junction) and obviously they may be very full.

Folded bikes (wheels 20" or smaller) can be taken on the replacement buses. **Additional Linlithgow bike parking** has been installed and, as above, there is **Bike Hire at Haymarket**.

The original EGIP plans included a short new stretch of line, the **Almond Chord**, to connect the Linlithgow-Dalmeny line with the Fife-Edinburgh line without the need to reverse, thus giving an alternative Linlithgow-Edinburgh fast route [which, incidentally, would also give timetabling space for additional trains when Winchburgh Station opens (2018?)]. Had the Almond Chord been built, then the present disruption would have been entirely avoided as mainline Edinburgh-Glasgow services could have used it. Unfortunately, however, the Scottish Government cut back several elements of EGIP, and Almond Chord was one of them.

COMPETITION 2015

This year's Spokes summer competition is **My Favourite Bike Ride** [in Edinburgh and/or the Lothians]. Tell us why it's so great and you could win a great prize (and modest fame!)

Each person may submit 2 entries. **The closing date is 6 Sept.** It is important to read the full rules before entering [see below].

Prizes include the following great selection. The top winner gets to choose their prize, second chooses second, and so on.

- **ScotRail:** Return 1st ticket for 2 between any 2 Scottish stns
- **Edin Bike Coop:** £50 voucher
- **Sustrans:** Selection of Sustrans Scotland maps
- **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket
- **Kalpna Indian Veg restaurant:** Lunch for 2
- **Peter's Yard:** Jan Hedh Artisan Bread Book
- **Reiss Hairsalon:** Hair cut and finish
- **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2
- **BikeTrax:** £25 voucher

For detailed rules and entry form, more about the prizes, and other information, see spokes.org.uk : documents : odds&ends. There will also be a news item on the website fairly soon.

RENEW or JOIN SPOKES

At our June 15 public meeting there will be a special table or stall space at which you can renew your membership for 2015 (if still due) or join Spokes. **If you haven't yet renewed you can do so on the spot ... if possible bring your renewal form with you.**

BOTTLE DEPOSITS

The Scottish government is at last considering bringing in deposits for glass bottles (as well as cans etc), as used to happen here and is the case in several other countries. See May 14 news at zerowastescotland.org.uk. A public opinion survey by APRS [Association for Protection of Rural Scotland] found 79% support and only 9% opposition [www.ruralscotland.btck.co.uk, News 23.5.15].

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Spokes has occasionally been told by members about glass on the roads differing when travelling from one country to another in Europe, or state-state in the US, where there were/weren't deposits. However we can't find any emails on this, and would appreciate any evidence or personal experience.
- ◆ It is clear from the press that the drinks industry is fighting hard against the proposal. *If you support it, please ask your MSP to support the case*, to speak to the Minister [Richard Lochead] on your behalf, and to let you know what is happening.

ROUTE NEWS

George Street

The present experimental setup ends in September and legally cannot be extended, so there will be an interim layout until a final one is agreed, made legal with a Traffic Order, and constructed, which could take a year or more. We are assured the final solution will include segregated bike provision and will be consulted on.

The **interim cycleroute** has legally to be compatible with the previous traffic parking/loading Order, so is onroad unsegregated. There is an open meeting to discuss it in the City Chambers at 12 noon on Thursday 18 June [ask for Iain MacPhail's meeting].

Forrest Road

There are growing hints that Edinburgh Council may improve Forrest Road cycling conditions in the next couple of years. Our proposal [Spokes 119] may prove too radical, but a segregated cycleroute, effectively a continuation of Middle Meadow Walk, may be on the cards – and might continue on towards Princes Street. **If you think this area should be improved** - email your councillors [www.writetothem.com].

Pentlands to Porty

The *Friends of Burdiehouse Burn* may sound a small local group but they have grand ideas for a *Pentlands to Porty* cycling and walking route - much of it would use existing paths, but with new links, upgrades, signing and publicity. Thanks to **Councillor Keith Robson** the Council has agreed to report on feasibility. More info: Search 'Burdiehouse cycle path' at edinburghnews.scotsman.com. You can follow the group on twitter at @FBbvp.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS + PAN EXHIBITIONS/ CONSULTATIONS

Remember to check our web page of Planning Applications or PANs which we believe may be relevant to cycling [PANs are a public consultation stage for big developments, prior to a Planning Application] – possibly a potential cycle access or connection, bike storage needed for residents, bike parking for visitors, etc.

The page also explains how to look up PAs/PANs on the council website and find details of exhibitions, etc. You comment on **planning applications** direct to the council. For **PANs** there is normally an exhibition and you comment to the developer – they should then report and take account of the consultation feedback in their subsequent planning application.

Find our page at spokes.org.uk : documents : local issues : current PAs. Or go to www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans

For more information, contact Peter Hawkins, Spokes Planning Group, email peterhawk@tphoncoop.coop.

Here is **one current proposal** - see above web page for more.

Reference: 15/02405/PAN. **Major residential develop** south of Cockburn Cres, Balerno. **PAN Exhibition:** June 25, 4-8pm, Balerno Community Centre [check reference first in case date changes]. Greenbelt site, far from centre, and not designed for cycling.

BIKES ON TRAMS [off-peak]

The May one-month trial went well, has been extended into June and hopefully will be extended indefinitely. Several members have told us it went well. "No one batted an eyelid" said one, despite 2 buggies also. Edinburgh Trams issued a positive press release on the trial so far [see <http://edinburghtrams.com> May 27 news].

If you have had some good experiences and want bike carriage to continue you can send congratulations, support and any questions at <http://edinburghtrams.com/customer-services>.

Remember this is the first tram system in the UK to allow bikes on regular services – and the tram itself had a lot of bad publicity until recently - so the operator is understandably nervous at first.

Bikes are allowed 05:00-07:30, 09:30-16:00 and 18:30-23:00 Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday.

However **bikes will be banned all day on 18-23 June** due to the Highland Show and Foo Fighters concert, which are expected to fill the trams. We welcome views on this from members who use the trams – are they too full for most of those days, or could they still retain offpeak bike carriage at the guard's discretion?

MIDLOTHIAN

The Visit Midlothian site has an interesting page on leisure cycling opportunities, including a downloadable leaflet about cafes and attractions which welcome cyclists – the leaflet was also sent in paper form to all Spokes members in our summer mailing.

Rosslyn Chapel and Lasswade Paper Mill restaurant have now both achieved the Visit Scotland "Cyclists Welcome" status, and have the logo. The one problem with the web page is that it doesn't (yet?) mention our great new **Midlothian Spokes cycle map!**

See <http://www.visitmidlothian.org.uk/cycling/>

SPOKES ORGANISATION

Reports from the various Spokes groups and responsibilities have been prepared for the AGM. They provide an interesting insight into the wide range of Spokes lobbying and other activities. Find them at spokes.org.uk : documents : internal : AGM.

Also at the AGM, members will be asked to consider Spokes becoming a SCIO [Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation], which would avoid Spokes organisers being sued in the event of some disaster, and would also allow reclaiming of Gift Aid.

OLD STOCK - FREE

We are clearing out various items and we offer them free (or for a voluntary donation) to anyone who might find them useful.

To request anything, contact [judy.cantley](mailto:judy.cantley@btinternet.com) [AT] btinternet.com or phone 0131 447 7108. If you have a special reason [e.g. for a library or school] rather than purely personal interest, please say.

Source	Title	No.
Spokes [Also see * below]	Set of Spokes Bulletins 1979-present. A few issues missing, but if for a library we will be as complete as possible.	Plenty sets
Spokes	envelope re-use labels (4 per sheet - in sets of 10 sheets)	lots
Spokes	Edinburgh Cycle map (1st edition)	10
	Edinburgh Cycle map (2nd edition 1991)	2
	Edinburgh Cycle map (3rd edition)	13
	Edinburgh Cycle map (4th edition 1996)	1
	Edinburgh Cycle map (5th edition)	2
Sustrans	NCN Guidelines and Practical details (March 1997)	2
Encyclopedia	Guide to Cycling alternatives (thick glossy book of different types of bikes, trailers, etc, published 2001)	3
Velocity conference	CD Rom 2001 Edinburgh/Glasgow conf proceedings	6
Scotways	Scottish Hilltracks map 1999	lots

* The front covers of all Bulletins from no.1 to no.100 are scanned online thanks to Chris Hill, founder of CityCyclingEdinburgh online forum [<http://citycyclingedinburgh.info/bbpress>]. A link to the scans, plus complete bulletin pdf's from no.89 to the present, is at spokes.org.uk : bulletin.