

BIKE STORAGE at HOME

Our 2023 competition sought ideas and experiences on storing bikes at home.

The entries showed how personal circumstances make a huge difference, from easy to impossible – albeit there is often scope for innovation!

Many storage themes emerged

- inside the flat
- in the tenement
- in the garage
- in the curtilage
- outside premises
- lots of bikes
- kids bikes
- comparing car storage
- avoiding theft
- cargo bikes/ trailers

Martha Koerner's poem (opposite) touched on many of these issues

*My flat's only small, my bike collection expanding,
Not enough space inside, so I keep some on the landing.
But the tenement stairwell is narrow, not spacious
And keeping them there feels pretty audacious.*

*Storing bikes on the street invites the thieves,
My friend had hers nicked last year and still grieves.*

*I don't have a garage, a cellar nor a shed
And neither a bike hangar close by instead.*

*So much of our public room belongs to cars
But safe space for bikes is very sparse.*

*I really wished it would be more extensive
And also rather inexpensive!*

*Affordable bikes are only half of the equation
For active travel facilitation.*

*We also need safe infrastructure and secure bike storage
And sadly, for both, Edinburgh still has a big shortage.*

INSIDE THE FLAT



"A Brompton, which folds up wonderfully behind the front door"

Pat Andrew



"Most importantly,
Does it look good?
.. I'd say so!"

Chris Hall

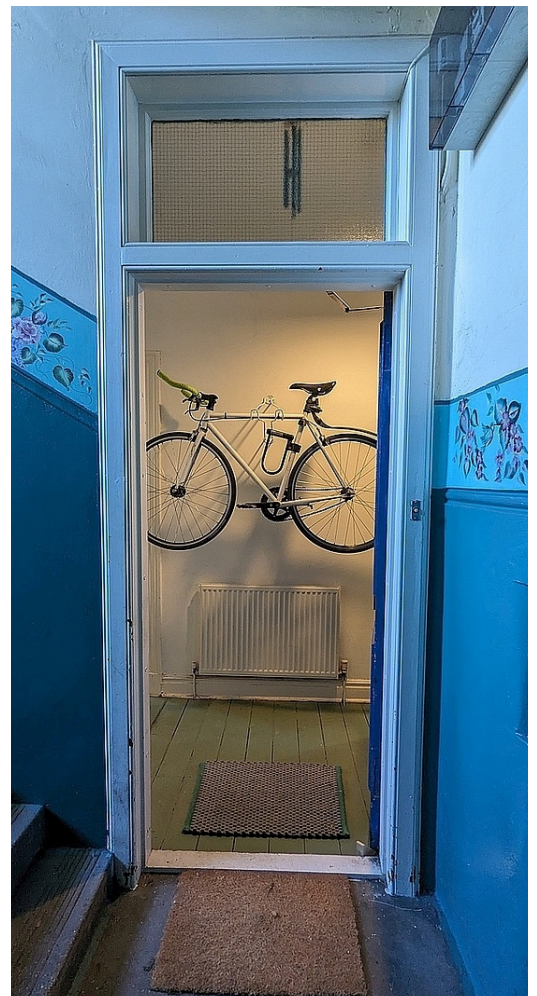
But opinions on that differed!

"In our flat, the rule is 'as long as they can't be seen.' They sit in the boxroom and the door stays shut!"

Oliver Brookes

"Pride of place over the cat litter tray in the hall, with a basic hook"

Kirsty Lewin



IN THE TENEMENT

"When we moved in 6 years ago there were 2 bikes. Now there are 14, with multiple families trying to find solutions. We muddle together and borrow each other's keys from time to time. And, of course, we sometimes fall out about access and safety. We all hope for better!"

Daniel James-Watling



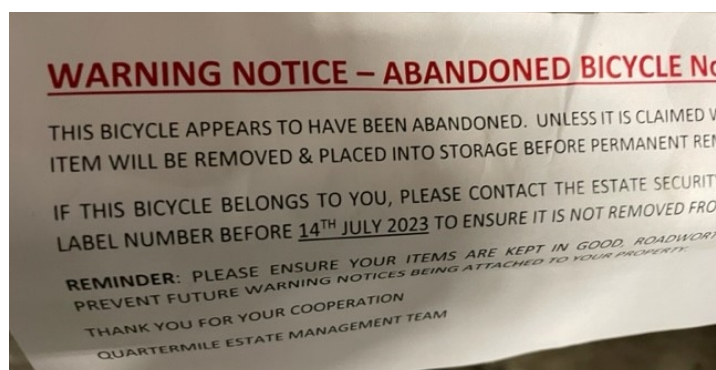
"These Leith flats have maybe 13 bikes on balconies .. people fear bike theft so much! Let's hope the residents have a lift in that block!"

David Gardiner



"With a transient population, bikes get abandoned. The factors have started a process to remove abandoned bikes – but they are slow to act!"

Ben Bate



IN THE GARAGE

"We have the luxury of a garage that doesn't contain a car. Hooks give us tidy storage for 8 bikes, with lots of space left over"

Rupert Nash

BIKES EXPAND TO FILL THE SPACE AVAILABLE...

"I need a new bike!! But the garage already has my wife's and daughter's, my sons' (2) and my own (more than 7, less than 10!) And a unicycle. Each and every one has its absolutely essential purpose..."

Nick Connor



...BUT, EVENTUALLY, DE-BIKING

"It's a funny thought that garages were designed for cars! Of course, you can't get modern fat cars through the door of most garages, but, even if you did, where would you put all that stuff that's in the garage?"

How did we end up with 8 bikes? It's a mystery, but it wouldn't have happened without a garage! And they all got used for different purposes, real or imagined.

But something inside me clicked: perhaps an addict realising another drink/bet isn't actually going to help.

I sold some and gave some to the [Bike Station](#) for onward use, so I'm down to just 2 bikes! I still love memories of trips I've done, even though I no longer have the bikes. But now it's so much easier to find things in the garage!"

Ken Morrison

INNOVATION: GARAGE FOR CHILD STORAGE ?

"We love having a garage where we can store everything – adult bikes, kids bikes, bike seats, bike trailers! Bikes on the wall give us extra floor space. Our next challenge will be to fit in these 2 budding cyclists when they are old enough to cycle in a few months"

Angus Ramsay



IN THE CURTILAGE



"Ten years ago, I built a store for two bikes (now 3) with a door hinged at the top and supported by a pole, creating an undercover area for working on the bikes! I also bolted a ground anchor into the concrete floor, where I secure the bikes with a heavy duty chain."

Paul Ince



"I asked my neighbours nicely if I could roof the gap between their home and mine, to keep the bikes dry. Now the space is a bike shed for 3!"

Sarah Komashko



"I have made/re-made this flexible shelter many times. The current version uses an abandoned playmat and a reinforced shower curtain!"

Rosanna Rabaeijs

"Our first bike shed planning application (in a Conservation Area) was refused. We succeeded by promising to restore the metal railings and stonework at the same time, to enhance the Area. NB: Our Tri-Metals bike store is great!"

Karen Esslemont



OUTWITH PREMISES

"I asked my lovely neighbours, one of who by chance had a storage facility nearby!"

Rebs Curtis-Moss



"After an epic campaign, there's now a Cyclehoop hangar in my street, and my ebike is there! There's no chance of lugging a 26kg bike up to the top floor of an Edinburgh tenement! It costs £6 a month, which is well

worth the cost. Of course it's not fair that it's free to park a car in the same street – but we are due to get a controlled parking zone."

Kirsty Lewin

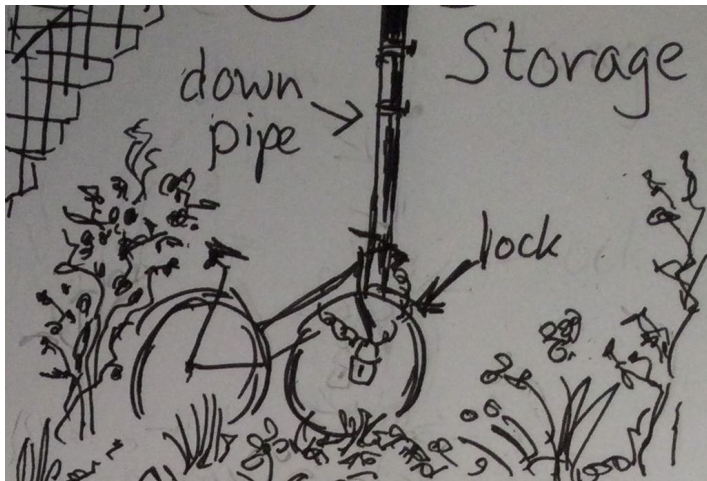


BIKE HIRE

would help many people with storage problems.

Tell your councillor!!

STORAGE EVOLUTION



Katharine Wake

THEFT PREVENTION

- ◆ Make sure your shed lock *and* bolt are big & beefy
- ◆ Lock your bike to something, even if in a locked shed
- ◆ Cameras provide evidence for insurance or police
- ◆ Photo your bike; note its frame number; get it coded
- ◆ Put your phone/email (not address) on a paper in the seat tube: the buyer or a shop mechanic may find it
- ◆ Cover your bike in paint/tape/stickers (Spokes sticker recommended!) thus reducing attractiveness for thieves. My wife's pristine bike was stolen; mine (photo) wasn't!



Malcolm Bruce

RESOURCES

- ◆ The stories here have been *greatly shortened* to save space. The full competition report, including a pdf of all prizewinning entries, is at [spokes.org.uk, 19.9.2023 blog](https://spokes.org.uk/19.9.2023_blog)
- ◆ See lots more Spokes factsheets and info pages at [spokes.org.uk : documents : advice](https://spokes.org.uk/documents/advice), including:
 - **Bike storage in gardens**
 - **Bike storage in flats & tenements**
 - **Bike storage residential – including onstreet**
 - Public bike parking
 - Cycling Inspiration; Workplace Cycling; E-bikes
 - Cycling with Kids; Cargobikes
- ◆ TheBikeStation.org.uk for low-cost refurbished bikes, DIY repairs; learning to cycle; bike maintenance classes
- ◆ Bike shops sell locks and may offer informal advice on security. We particularly like these local businesses who support Spokes by advertising and in other ways:
 - edinburghbicycle.com
 - harts-cyclery.co.uk
 - laid-back-bikes.scot