



Leicester Spokes, c/o Voluntary Action Leicester 9 Newarke Street. Leicester
LE1 5SN

I wish to join Leicester Spokes.

- £12 Family membership
- £8 Individual membership (waged)
- £4 Individual membership (unwaged)
- Donation

Total Enclosed : £ _____ (Cheques payable to Leicester Spokes)

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Thank you for your support.

Data Protection Act: Your membership details will be held on computer

MAR 04

LEICESTER CYCLIST

for cyclists in and around Leicester

Leicester Spokes - for Cyclists in and around Leicester

DARREN'S 2ND ISSUE.

No such thing as a Free Lunch

Sunday 7 March dawned grey with a snow shower or two. There was something distinctly odd about Leicester Spokes activity that morning. Several shadowy figures set off from home well wrapped up against the cold and wet.

The day marked the 10th anniversary of Fairtrade in the East Midlands. A celebration ride from the Eco House in Western Park to Trent Lock was planned.

Some cyclists are particularly known for their frugality. We once heard a rider (not a Leicester Spokes member it should be stressed) explain to us that the best thing about his bike was that you couldn't put petrol in it. But back to that cold and grey morning - why were riders converging on the Eco House at 9 o'clock when a lie-in beckoned.

Once there, all became clear. A nourishing breakfast was on offer. Organic honey. Cereal. Toast. Juice. The bargain price of £2.50 was displayed. And CYCLISTS, the notice added, FREE.

In the annals of Spokes rides this turned into a red-letter day. All of those solemn stories about three steaks for the price of a peppercorn, or egg and chips in exchange for an ear of wheat, were forgotten. It became apparent that not only breakfast but also a buffet lunch would be provided at no charge. A rectangular chocolate 10th birthday cake, too, the size of a doormat.

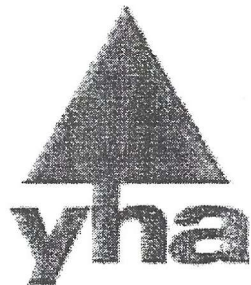
There were several intrepid (hah!) riders who made the journey on a lovely route to Trent Lock through Rothley, Quorn, Barrow, Stanford on Soar, Sutton Bonington and Kegworth. There we met up with Derby and Nottingham based cyclists

Thanks to the staff at the Eco House and the Derby Co-op for providing such good fare. The Fairtrade movement has put the low wages of food producers in third world countries at the top of the agenda. The average person in this country spends about £63 on chocolate each year (is that all? - Ed) and by buying Fairtrade items you guarantee that more of this money reaches the farmers who grow the cocoa and receive a fair price for their products.

Meanwhile, the Spokes riders selflessly and generously volunteered to repeat the ride next year, and every year for the next 10 years of Fairtrade's campaigning existence.

Peter Simmonds

Spokes have a group Membership of the YHA Ian Nightingale has the card and anyone wanting to use it for a group activity are more than welcome.



Campaign News

Local Authorities are required to bid for Central Government Funding for Local Transport Infrastructure. Funding received is dependent on preparing plans in accordance with Central Government guidelines. Consultation with the public, and interested Organisations form part of these requirements.

Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council held a joint Local Transport Plan (LTP) Day Seminar on 10th March 2004. I attended on behalf of Leicester Spokes. There were many Presentations and Discussion groups.

Themes covered were: -

County Towns

County towns as larger cities suffer from traffic congestion and over-dominance of motor vehicles. The recently completed Hinckley Town centre Pedestrianisation Scheme was shown as an example of things to come. It is interesting that cycling is permitted, together with buses, through the area. Some areas in Leicester and Loughborough, cycling is not allowed during shopping hours. When questioned, the speaker stated cyclists and pedestrians seem to co-exist well, with no conflicts reported.

Improving Accessibility/Reducing Congestion

This theme concentrated solely on improving Bus Infrastructure. One particular point is that Local Authorities are permitted to subsidise less profitable routes, and here a target of 95% of all Leicestershire residents are within an 800m (10 minute) walk of an hourly frequency bus service. Unfortunately this only applies to day services.

Roads Safety & Education

Our city and county partake in the Safety Camera Scheme, which has achieved a drop from 125 to 55 serious accidents per year at camera sites. Unlike what tabloid media seem to portray, there are many requests by communities for cameras. Unfortunately police do not have sufficient resources, nor do "the rules" permit a camera to be placed anywhere. Quite ludicrously, deaths need to occur on a particular road, before a camera installation is considered. Hence Local Authorities are considering introducing Half Day Speed Awareness Workshops, as an

alternative to Fixed Penalty Notices. This approach has shown low levels of re-offending elsewhere.

Network Management

This is the science of trying to keep traffic moving. Includes use of SCOOT, which controls the city's Traffic Light system from a central computerised control room. Star Trek/Star Text, bus arrival information systems. Car Park Guidance- VMS System, where signs show drivers numbers of available parking spaces around the city. There are also two pieces of legislation being considered, Decriminalized Parking Enforcement and Traffic Management Bill, which will permit Local Authorities, not Police, to employ traffic wardens to enforce parking restrictions and moving vehicle offences. This help reduce the dangerously common practice of private motor vehicles driving through Pedestrianised areas such as Charles Street and Horsefair Street.

Transport needs of Leicestershire Businesses

A CBI representative gave a view of Business Transport needs. The presentation implied that more needs to be done for motorised transport, as "Life is not going to change that much", 90% use roads. Although it was admitted that Green Travel Plans are necessary, school run needs to be tackled, and Businesses relocating to Out of Town sites is "Not so good".

Improving City Centre Access/Facilitating Regeneration

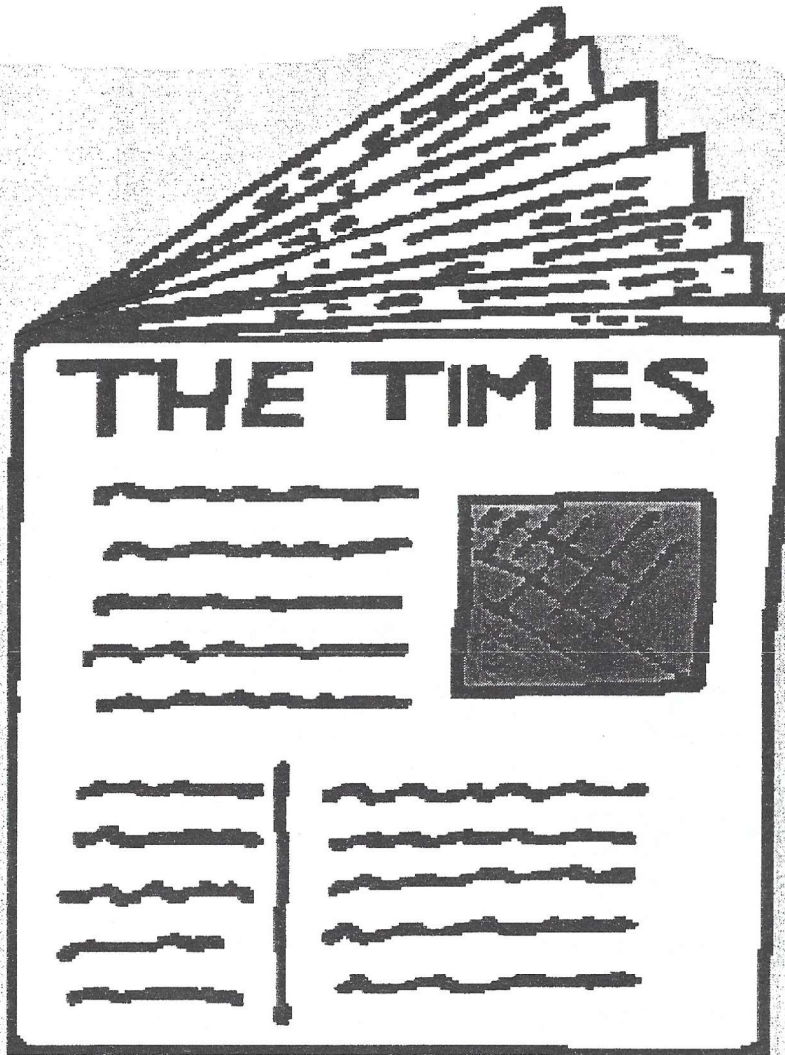
By 2011, the City expects 5000 new jobs and 6500 new homes. This will involve an estimated 3700 additional morning peak trips, against an already increasing number of car journeys. Local Authorities will be considering new strategies and policies, which may include road user charging, however it seems this approach will be strenuously opposed, as stated in Councillor Harry Barber's LTP Day's concluding speech. Over the years I have attended a number of LTP Days. Cycling, unlike last year, has not been solely discussed in one of the presentations. However Local Authorities claim that the cycling infrastructure is to continue to receive reasonable funding. I agree, there is still much to be done to assist the humble yet effective cycle journey.

Greg Puczylo – Secretary Leicester Spokes

Date	Time	Meeting Place	Distance	Leader And Reserve
27 March	10:00	Kirby Muxloe Roundabout	50	Peter
Measham – to sample Coral's Café!				
3 April	10:00	Ratcliffe Road		
<i>Oakham</i>				
10 April (Easter)	No Ride Planned			
17 April	9:00	Ratcliffe Road	70	Peter
<i>Stamford, for Tea in the George Hotel</i>				
24 April	9:00	Derby Rail Station	55	Paul Hilditch
<i>Carsington, Tissington Trail etc =</i>				
1 May	9:30	Ratcliffe Road	50	
<i>Brownsover, Warwickshire (The UK's No 1 Fish and Chip shop is here)</i>				
8 May	10:00	The Quay	50	
<i>Nottinghamshire/Leicestershire Villages Tour</i>				
15 May	9:00	Kirby Muxloe Roundabout	80	
<i>Lichfield</i>				
22 May	10:30	The Quay	50	
<i>Monks Kirby, Warwickshire</i>				
29 May	No Ride Planned			
5 June	9:30	Ratcliffe Road	70	Andy
<i>Northamptonshire Countryside, approaching Daventry</i>				

If you are able and willing to lead a Saturday ride (or two) please contact Peter Simmonds.

More information regarding Saturday rides will be published on the website. www.leicesterspokes.org.uk



THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS...

If you have an interesting story and would like it to be published, please Email it to darren.hayley@virgin.net or see Darren Walker.
Thanks

Christine's Sunday ride to Sileby

Unlike her previous ride in February, which was blessed with sunshine, the day was clouded over with a strong gusting SW wind and a pessimistic forecast. At 10.40 am there were only 3 of us gathered at the Quay. Just when we decided this was no a quorum three more riders arrived which made us feel morally bound to go at somewhere at least. After debating for 10 minutes the pros and con's of north versus south, we democratically decided that we would ride north. After 45 minutes the rain caught up with us, as forecast, in visible squalls being blown across the lakes of Watermead Park, whilst the Sunday papers lay unread in my warm, dry kitchen.

A suggested termination at the Hope and Anchor at Wanlip proved foolish because we arrived outside in the wind and rain with another 15 minutes to go till opening time. So, back to the original route crossing under the Western bypass up on to the very exposed cycle path alongside the A6, then turning off on to the old road through Rothley and onto Mountsorrel itself.

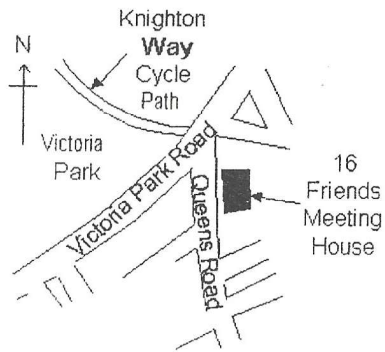
We decided to change from the excellent Stonehurst Tearooms and instead turned in to Mounsorrel and on to Sielby, to the Old Piggery tearooms at Meadow View farm. This is hidden down a driveway in the built-up area on the road south to Cossington. Sodden gloves and sock were piled on top of the log-burning stove, while we tucked into the traditional food served. My sausage and mash was excellent, with the sausages allegedly made on the premises from pigs reared outside. Ned's steak and kidney pudding however, was probably *fresh from the freezer* and still needed as second burst of cooking to heat up the center. By the time we left the rain had stopped and our trousers soon dried out in the wind as we pedaled back to Mountsorrel, turning up a back road behind the quarry and coming out by the concrete "Dougal Dog" which has now lost its head. Back along the Swithland Lane and to Rothley Station where we stopped for a cup of tea on the platform and watched a passing steam train. On through to Thurcaston and down the steepest hill in Leicester – Mowmacre and back on to the Riverside Way at Thurcaston Road bridge, arriving back at the Quay. Just before the rain started again

John Woodcraft

Notice of Leicester Spokes Annual General Meeting 2004

Dear Leicester Spokes Member,
You are invited to the Leicester Spokes AGM to be held on Tuesday 20th April 2004 at 7:30pm, Complimentary light refreshments available from 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester, located near the junction with Victoria Park Road.

Regards
Greg Puczylo
Secretary
Leicester Spokes



Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 2003 (extra copies available at meeting)
Matters arising and acceptance as a true record.
3. Officers Reports:
Chair
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Ride Organisers
4. Election of Officers:
Chair
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Treasurer
Other Specialist positions
Ordinary Committee members
5. Items for Discussion
Newsletter Contributions from members
Frequency of issue
Insurance update - developments in Spokes Insurance cover.
Rides Committee - Ride Leaders must be members of the committee.
Campaigning Issues
6. Any other Business

Here are few places, which may be able to help in your quest for a new bike.



Tel: 0116 262 5551
www.cyclemagic.org.uk

Cyclemagic projects include special needs and disabled cycling, bike recycling, events, training for new and returning cyclists, and all kinds of unusual human powered machines such as recumbents, pedal boats and work bikes. Based in Leicester our cycling projects also cover Leicestershire and Rutland and we often attend events further afield.

The Bike Park Tel: 0116 299 1234
Town Hall, Town Square
Leicester Leicestershire
LE1 9BG

Websters Cycles Tel: 0116 254 8065
134a, London Rd
Leicester Leicestershire
LE2 1EB

On Yer Bike Tel: 0116 271 2353
23, Stoughton Rd Oadby
Leicester Leicestershire
LE2 4DS

For more details about Leicester Spokes, please visit
<http://www.leicesterspokes.org.uk>

Or Write to

Leicester Spokes
C/o Voluntary Action Leicester
9 Newarke Street
Leicester.
LE1 5SN.