

News roundup from WHCF -

2nd Sat Social

At 11am on the 8th of December we will leave Hatfield on the last ride of the year to explore the new cycle paths in Verulamium Park, St Albans.

We start and finish at the Forum on the Herts Uni College Lane Campus. Everyone interested in exploring the Alban Way and Verulamium Park is welcome. Total distance 12 to 15 miles, mainly along segregated cycle paths. Return after 3pm, lunch TBD en route.

Free weekend parking on campus.

STACC Public Meeting, Monday 3rd December 7.30pm, St Albans Council Offices, Civic Centre St Peters St. AL1 3JE

What can St Albans learn from Cambridge?

Jim Chisholm of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/> will give a presentation on how to campaign to get better conditions and facilities for cyclists.

Prize Draw Winner

The Prize Draw for completing the cycling survey at our publicity stalls this year was made on the 14th Nov at the previous meeting.

Congratulations to the winner, Chris Martin who will receive a £10 John Lewis voucher.

Survey Findings

This year we have handed out cycling questionnaires. Here is a summary of the most interesting findings.

- Everyone surveyed had access to a bike. Only one person had a borrowed bike.
- 20 people regularly used their bike, 12 people occasionally. It was good to see that nobody answered 'Never'.
- There was an overwhelming call for better/more cycle routes, especially to reach outlying areas.
- More than two thirds of respondents said they would be interested in joining one of our cycle rides.
- Half of those interested in our rides wanted to ride about 20 miles.

Hatfield Tour Ride 10th November

Four new faces joined our ride to tour the cycle routes around Hatfield. The tour covered a distance of approximately 18 miles, visiting Colney Heath, South Hatfield, Salisbury Village and the Southern edge of WGC. Fortunately, the overnight rain cleared just in time for the ride and we even saw the odd glimpse of the sun. The ride ended up at the Red Lion back in Hatfield for a well earned lunch.

We hope to see our newcomers again on our ride to Verulamium Park on 8 December.

The route was traced by one of our riders on his GPS and can be seen via a link from the event report on welhatcycling.org.uk/events.htm

Pinch Points

CycleHerts (the umbrella group formed from all cycle groups in Hertfordshire) have been in discussion with Herts County Council about 'Pinch Points' installed on roads around the county. Pinch Points are generally installed to assist pedestrians crossing the road by reducing the carriageway width, but are also used for traffic calming. Cyclists can feel very vulnerable at these points, because motorists often try to

squeeze through beside them, leaving insufficient space.

Herts County Council are keen to update their design manual to show the best compromise between the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists and we have been asked to nominate pinch points (if any) we think are well designed.

If you see a pinch point anywhere on your travels, that you think is well designed, please take a photo and let us know where it is.

Beryl Burton Radio 4 Drama

Beryl Burton, OBE was an English racing cyclist and one of Britain's greatest ever athletes. She dominated women's cycle racing in the UK, winning more than 90 domestic championships, seven world titles, and setting numerous national records.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01p0fpl/Afternoon_Drama_Beryl_A_Love_Story_on_Two_Wheels/

A short history of Dutch Cycling Infrastructure (scroll down for 6 min video)

<http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/campaigning/article/cam20121120-Love-Cycling-Go-Dutch-Conference-comes-to-Manchester-0>

A cargo bike for Santa ?

<http://www.copenhagenize.com/2011/12/worlds-most-northernly-cargo-bike.html>

Monthly Meetings

Our meeting is usually held on the 2nd Weds at 7.15pm at Campus West, WGC. All welcome. Next meeting 12th Dec.

Gotta go now - wishing all our riders and readers a happy Christmas,

John

<http://welhatcycling.org.uk/>