

Portsmouth Cycle Forum



www.pompeybug.org.uk

Newsletter – October 2010

Social ride around Langstone Harbour - 14 October 2010



Autumn is upon us but that shouldn't stop us from getting out and about on our bicycles. Portsmouth Cycle Forum is organising an early evening ride around Langstone Harbour on Thursday 14 October. We'll meet in the Guildhall Square next to Queen Victoria's statue at 5.15pm and cycle to Eastney Point to catch the 6pm ferry to Hayling Island. From there we'll make our way to the famous and much-loved Billy Trail which we'll follow to Langstone. We'll then head westwards along Harts Farm Way (cycle path) to join the A27 cycleway. At Farlington roundabout the route heads south along the Eastern Road cycle path back to the Guildhall Square. The route follows cycle paths for most of the way but there will be some on-road stretches.

Bring lights as it will be getting dark towards the end of this 15 mile cycle ride. Don't be put off by the distance. This is a fun ride and definitely not a race. Portsmouth City Council have an excellent leaflet describing the route which you can download from the Visit Portsmouth Web site at <http://bit.ly/aohih>

Government announces plans for new transport fund

The Government has announced a fund for sustainable transport that can be accessed by local authorities in conjunction with other local partners. The idea is that the local government will work together with community groups to identify initiatives to encourage the use of sustainable transport.

We are looking forward to making some suggestions for schemes such as a citywide cycle hire scheme like the one in London or what about cycle super highways.... if you have any more ideas you would like to suggest please contact us. We are keen to start making use of this new transport fund soon as details are finalised. More information at <http://bit.ly/bQi9FI>



Transform your bicycle into a horse!

Why not turn your bike into a horse? Well perhaps because you do not have a suitable stable or easy access to hay! With this handy kit you can turn your bike into horse without needing any hay at all..... **'Horsey' bike**

The bike ornament is called 'horsey' and came about because its designer, Eungi Kim, wanted to "give a special look to bicycles so that people would care about cycling not only as transportation but also as a lovely pet."



A spokesperson for the Environmental Transport Association (ETA) said: "This accessory will not be for everyone but could prove very popular with younger cyclists." The average recreational cyclist produces about ¼ horsepower.

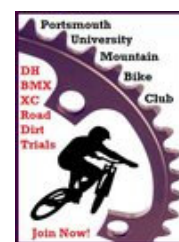
Getting Around Conference

On 30th September Portsmouth Cycle forum took part in a community event involving local people to shape the future of transport in and around Portsmouth. The meeting was organised by Culture Matters (the new name for the Cultural Consortium) and John Holland gave a presentation on cycling in Portsmouth and what the Forum would like to see. The aim of the event was to find out what your main transport problems are, to generate ideas to solve them, and to get views on how well the strategy for transport in South Hampshire could make people's lives better. The Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) is a strategy being developed by the local authorities across South Hants but there will be a Portsmouth-specific implementation plan which goes to consultation early next year.



Freshers' Fair 2010

The Forum has been to Ravelin Park to talk to the new intake of students. We hope we persuaded some of them to use a bike in our flat and compact city.... well actually we only got the briefest of chances to press a small leaflet into their hands as they all dashed by. Portsmouth University has a Mountain Bike Club. So for any students out there here's a link to their Web site and you can also find them on Facebook www.pompeydirt.co.uk/pompey_dirt



Xmas bike party 29th December



Hilary Reed is busy organising a Xmas bike party at Bransbury Park on 29 December. We will be working in partnership with Eastney Community Centre to hold an event to help local residents have fun on their old and new bikes. If you love your bike and want to give it a bit of oil and perhaps some air, come along and get a free bike spruce up. We can also help you to get your bike back into working order. There will be slow races, obstacle courses, tests of skill, tests of knowledge, a bike quiz, bike security marking and much more....

Hilsea station link opens

A new walking and cycling route linking Devon Road in Copnor to Hilsea railway station has now opened. This enables local residents to easily access the station, significantly reducing the time to travel on the main roads. The scheme includes new cycle parking, however we are not so impressed with this – the parking area is hidden from the station on the edge of a playing field, there's no CCTV (yet?) . A local cyclist said "you'd have to pay me to leave my bike there – it is not at all secure".



'At the seaside without my car' day 19 September

The Cycle Forum helped out at the second 'At the seaside without my car day' at Canoe Lake by carrying out over 100 free bike checks. The day was planned to coincide with European Mobility Week and to encourage people to consider using alternatives to the car for some journeys. The Cycle Roadshow proved popular with people trying out tandems, trailer bikes, child seats, children's bikes and more. The road closure gave people the chance to take in the sea air without the traffic noise, pollution and the need to avoid road traffic.

Metropolis Ride 26 October



To coincide with the showing of the Fritz Lang classic 'Metropolis' at No.6 Cinema, we will be riding around Portsmouth on 26 October and marvelling (or staring in disbelief) at a selection of the city's architecture. Portsmouth City Council has designed a Metropolis ride to encompass some of the interesting architecture of Portsmouth. This will be the inaugural ride and a bit of test run before it's made into one of the growing range of cycle trail leaflets on offer. We will then be stopping at No.6 Cinema in the Historic Dockyard to see the digitally remastered film which has been enhanced by the addition of some previously unseen footage. To see a trailer for the film and find out screening times, visit www.no6cinema.co.uk. Meet at 5.15pm in the Guildhall Square.

Tipner Regeneration

Plans for the first phase of the Tipner regeneration are open for public consultation. We welcome the scheme which should provide a walking and cycling route along part of the shoreline which is currently inaccessible. But we've expressed concern about access to the site which will be from Twyford Avenue as it cuts across the main north-south cycle route to the city (also part of the National Cycle Network Route 22). The crossing point needs to be well designed and give priority to pedestrians and cyclists. This is also an ideal opportunity to upgrade NCN 22 between Target Road and Twyford Avenue. You can view the plans at www.portsmouth.gov.uk.

Somerstown Regeneration

We have seen the plans of the first phase to improve Somerstown which involves the re-modelling of the roundabout in Winston Churchill Avenue. This should bring benefits to cyclists as there will be new shared use facilities on the junction with Isambard Brunel Road. The roundabout will be smaller than the existing one to allow for the construction of new houses and the shared use path will be re-routed. In the next phase of the project, a community hub will span Winston Churchill Avenue which will entail further changes to the cycle route which we will be monitoring closely.



BOND bicycle boasts ejector seat and flame thrower *From the Environment Transport Association*

Is this the ultimate urban commuter bicycle? The flame-thrower fitted in the handlebars prevents overtaking motorists getting too close. The ejector seat disposes of thieves who beat the padlock and chain. And the bike - which would make James Bond's gadget inventor, Q, proud - also boasts a caterpillar track for smooth riding over pot-holed roads. More information at <http://bit.ly/9ucgvx>.

The diary

14 October Portsmouth Cycle Forum Langstone Harbour ride. Meet in Guildhall Square at 5.15pm (more info. above).

26 October Healthy Pompey Metropolis Architecture ride. Meet in Guildhall Square at 5.15pm (more info. above).

11 November – Cycle Forum open meeting – 7pm, Portsmouth Guildhall (meeting room 1).

9 December – Cycle Forum Christmas Social – details available soon!

These and more events are listed at www.pompeybug.org.uk.

Portsmouth Cycle Forum ...

... is a voluntary group working to make cycling safer, easier and more enjoyable throughout the Portsmouth area. We'd be pleased to hear from you and perhaps you will join us. For more information contact enquiries@pompeybug.co.uk, or telephone 07787 550655.

