



## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on **Wednesday 26 November 2008 at 7.30pm** in the Friends Meeting House, Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow. At this meeting we will:

1. Consider the work done by, or under the auspices of, the Committee.
2. Approve of the Accounts.
3. Appoint an independent auditor.
4. Fix the membership fees for the coming year.
5. Consider any resolutions submitted by the Committee or Members (to be received by the secretary at least one week prior to the meeting – please send to the address below).
6. Elect Members to serve on the Committee.

**Please come and demonstrate your support for our campaigns to improve cycling in Glasgow!**

### Local news and events

**Bike Polite** – Go Bike is supporting the *Bike Polite* campaign, which will be launched in Glasgow on 11 November. The aim is to encourage cyclists to obey the rules of the road, so we can hold the moral high ground when we call on motorists to do the same! See <[www.politecycling.info](http://www.politecycling.info)>.

**On Yer Bike to Barrhead** – Ride organised by East Renfrewshire Council, Saturday 22 November 2008. Bring your bike and meet the rangers at the Ashoka Restaurant for this free ride to Balgray Reservoir and back again! There will be an opportunity for bike hire and a free Dr Bike session before we set off. In total this route covers approximately 7 miles over good paths. There is a moderate incline up to the reservoirs so a reasonable level of fitness is required. Meet at 1000 outside Ashoka Restaurant, Nitshill Road/Corselet Road, Darnley, Glasgow.

**Act on Climate Change** – March organised by the Scottish Climate Change Campaign, Saturday 6 December 2008. Assemble 1230 at the Amphitheatre, Clyde Street; rally: 1400 at Glasgow Caledonian University .

**Pothole patrol** – Martin Graham, Councillor Danny Alderslowe and others organised a Pothole Patrol around Victoria Road on 10 September 2008. It was a resounding success – “People were absolutely delighted that someone was taking an interest in this issue and increasing awareness of how to get roads fixed”. The council’s pothole hotline number is **0800 37 36 35**. They aim to repair potholes in main roads within 24 hours and those in minor roads in 5 working days.

**Eleanor Guthie** – Sadly we have to report that long time Go Bike member and cycle campaigner Eleanor Guthie passed away at the end of October. We send our condolences to her family.

## Local routes and facilities

**Proposed increase of speed limits** – Go Bike is objecting to Glasgow City Council's proposal to increase the speed limit on various roads in the north east of Glasgow, including Avenue End Road and Robroyston Road.

**Roads reopened to cycles** – Two road closures in the West End of Glasgow have been reopened to cycles after requests from Go Bike. Striven Gardens and Doune Gardens into Doune Quadrant in North Kelvinside is now open to cycles (with some finishing work to be done shortly), linking Raeberry Street to Queen Margaret Drive. These were on a list of road closures we'd like to see reopened to cycles that Go Bike compiled for Glasgow City Council.

**Monymusk Place, Drumchapel** – Glasgow City Council is proposing to ban motor vehicles from the northern-most section of Monymusk Place in Drumchapel, at the point where the Garscadden Way path joins, due to problems with fly-tipping. Go Bike is supporting this, and is suggesting the same is done at Rogerfield Road near Easterhouse where there has already been a temporary road closure in place for some time.

**The Forge Shopping Centre** – A right turn filter has now been installed on the traffic signals at the junction of Duke Street and Shettleston Road, at the rear of The Forge Shopping Centre, a suggestion that Go Bike made to Glasgow City Council some time ago.

**Lack of cycle parking** – Recent efforts to improve cycle parking in Glasgow at the City Chambers, Dundas Street and The Forge Shopping centre have run into obstacles (some physical, some legal). Glasgow Central Station is notable for its poor provision too: just 6 racks for 34 million passengers per year (the busiest station outside London).

**Clyde tunnel** – Glasgow City Council has recently secured funding for upgrades to the pedestrian and cycle tunnels. Design work is ongoing to introduce a gated entry system operated from the tunnel control room and to improve the CCTV provision both in and around the tunnel. There are no plans at present to upgrade the lighting, which suffers seriously from vandalism.

**Kilmarnock** – Warrington Cycle Campaign's *Cycle Facility of the Month* for September was a cycle lane under the arch of a railway bridge in Kilmarnock, comprehensively obstructed by a metal fence where it meets the road. See <[www.warringtoncyclecampaign.co.uk](http://www.warringtoncyclecampaign.co.uk)>.

**Airdrie to Bathgate cycle path** – This closed on 19 October 2008 for the building of the Airdrie to Bathgate rail link. A new cycle path will be built alongside the railway but will not open until 2010. Douglas Bingham led a Go Bike farewell ride along the old path just before it closed.

## National and international news

**Proposed Scottish Budget** – *Spokes* in Edinburgh has called for a £ 20 million Cycle Projects Fund to be set up. Details on <[www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)>. It asks people to contact their MSPs in support of the proposal – nothing too detailed, just state your support and why you think that such a project could make a difference to your area, and get more people to cycle for everyday journeys.

**Ending the Scandal of Complacency: Road Safety beyond 2010** – The Commons Transport Select Committee has called for more 20 mph speed limits, for a stronger role for cycle training, and for new road safety targets which support wider health and environmental objectives by encouraging more as well as safer cycling. (From [ctcnews.org.uk](http://ctcnews.org.uk))

**Sustainable Travel Demonstration Communities** – Seven areas to share £15m were announced in August. The green travel schemes (Smarter Choices – Smarter Places) will be at Barrhead, Kirkwall, Dumfries, Dundee, Kirkintilloch/Lenzie, Larbert/Stenhousemuir and Glasgow East End.

**Fewer cycle lanes under construction** – The Government has revealed that local authorities installed 65% fewer cycle lanes in 2007 than five years previously. Moreover, the average length of a new cycle lane has fallen significantly. Many local authorities currently install cycle lanes that are too narrow or otherwise inappropriate. (From [ctcnews.org.uk](http://ctcnews.org.uk))

**Fatalities down but serious injuries up** – Cycling fatalities in Great Britain during 2007 fell from 146 in the previous year to 136, a reduction of 7%. However, serious injuries increased by 6% to 2,428 while overall the number of casualties stayed constant. (From [www.cyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.cyclenetwork.org.uk))

**Cycle Campaign Network**, the UK federation of cycling campaign groups, is changing its name to **cyclenation** and the web site will shortly move to [www.cyclenation.org.uk](http://www.cyclenation.org.uk).

## Cycle rides 2008–2009

*Regular, easy-paced rides are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 1000 from the north end of Bell's Bridge in Glasgow. The extra rides have different arrangements. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number 07932 460093 with you in case of problems.*

### **Sunday 7 December 2008 – Glasgow to Eaglesham and Auldhouse**

Out of Glasgow via Rouken Glen Park, Waterfoot and the Hole ford, returning to Glasgow via the Cathkin Braes. Pub lunch at Auldhouse.

### **Sunday 4 January 2009 – The Garscadden Way**

A shorter winter ride heading up the Kelvin Cycleway to reach the Forth and Clyde Canal before joining the Garscadden Way through Garscadden Woods. Then going through a ford and into Clydebank for a lunch break back at the canal. Return to Glasgow via the canal or NCN 7. Mainly on minor roads and paths, some of which are a bit rough.

### **Sunday 1 February 2009 – Crookston Castle**

A shorter winter ride along the Paisley cycle route as far as Rosshall Park, then to Crookston Castle. Return to Pollok Park for a lunch stop. Mainly on minor roads and paths.

### **Sunday 1 March 2009 – Auchinloch and Kirkintilloch**

Heading out of Glasgow via the Barmulloch cycle lanes and out into the countryside at Robroyston, this ride uses country lanes, then the southern section of the Strathkelvin Railway Path, to reach the Forth and Clyde Canal at Kirkintilloch. After a lunch stop at The Stables pub, return to Glasgow along the canal towpath.

### **Sunday 5 April 2009 – Strathblane and Clachan of Campsie**

Leaving the Glasgow area at Milngavie, this ride heads over the hill at Mugdock and down into Strathblane. The Strathkelvin Railway Path (northern section) is then used to reach Clachan of Campsie. After a lunch stop at the tearoom, return to Glasgow, with an option of going over the hill and through the forest for the adventurous!

*Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!*

## Weekend trips, past and planned

In the last couple of years, Go Bike has arranged some weekend trips offering an opportunity for members to discover some of the longer distance cycle routes. In July last year, we covered the entire Sustrans Route 74 from Carlisle to Glasgow, whilst this year we spent two separate weekends cycling along Route 7 from Glasgow to Inverness. For the first of these trips in May, a select group of five members cycled from Glasgow to Pitlochry, via Loch Lomond, Callander, Strathyre and Loch Tay. In September we had a considerably larger group for the second leg of this trip, with a party of twelve completing the trip from Pitlochry to Inverness through the pass of Killiecrankie, over Drumochter summit and via Strathspey and Culloden Moor.

Plans for similar trips next year have still to be finalised, but one possibility that was discussed during this year's trips was the C2C route linking the Irish and North Sseas. This covers about 140 miles and runs from Workington / Whitehaven on the west coast to Sunderland / Tynemouth on the east coast. It is proposed to complete the route in three days, probably over the Glasgow Fair weekend (18–20 July 2009).

## Meetings

The next Go Bike meeting will be the AGM at 1930 on Wednesday 26 November 2008 in the Friends' Meeting House, Elmbank Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow. Directions can be found on the web site. Meetings are generally held on the last Wednesday of alternate months: see the web site for dates. Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite would be welcome.

The current committee of Go Bike is Peter Hayman (Convenor), John Davies (Vice Convenor) and Andy Preece (Treasurer).

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2009, which fall due at the AGM? Please use the form below or make a donation on a ride.

## Glasgow Cycle Map

The current edition was produced by Go Bike in association with Spokes Maps and was published in late 2007. It is available for £4.95 from Go Bike; in most good cycle shops; by sending a cheque for £4.95 made payable to 'SPOKES' to: Spokes Maps, St Martin's Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2JG; or online at <edinburghpaths.info/spokesmaps.htm>.

## Cycling leaflets

Go Bike has supplies of free leaflets from Glasgow City Council and others. If you would like a selection please send a C5 stamped, addressed envelope to the address below. Leaflets include the Loch Lomond cycle route, Clyde Coast routes, Paisley and Cumbernauld cycle routes, and the Critical Mass ride.

## Yahoo group

Sign up to the Go Bike News email group to keep in touch with cycling news, views and events. You are unlikely to be deluged with messages! For more information see [www.gobike.org](http://www.gobike.org).

## Contact us

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## Join Go Bike

Membership of Go Bike is by donation, which covers the cost of campaigning, newsletters, meetings and the web site. Please send your donations to the above address.

Name.....

Address.....

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Email..... Phone.....

I enclose a membership donation of £.....