



2011 Spring

Go Bike News

## A successful AGM

The AGM on 25 November 2010 was the most successful for many years. Our guest speaker was Sandra White, MSP for Glasgow, whose talk was followed by a lively discussion. The topics included:

- Priorities for cycling.
- Cycle parking at public buildings: the lack of facilities, and unsuitability of many facilities that do exist.
- Cycle parking at the new Tesco in Maryhill: Councillor Craig Mackay offered to investigate.
- Cycle routes through parks: these are convenient and pleasant during daylight hours, but parallel road routes must exist for commuting and other journeys during hours of darkness.
- Main road cycling, for those who want a direct route to their destination.
- The opening up of stopped-up roads to allow cyclists to use quieter back streets.

Sandra suggested that Go Bike petition the Scottish Parliament to ask for consultation on traffic orders on the same grounds as other road users.

A serious concern was the decline in paid-up members of Go Bike. If you have not paid your subscription for 2011, please do so now. And if you are not yet a member, please join! See the form on the back of this leaflet.

## Local news and events

**Glasgow's Strategic Plan for Cycling, 2010–2020** – This was recently ratified by Glasgow City Council and has the laudable aim that 'Cycling will be the biggest participation activity in the city by 2020'. Go Bike was able to get some changes to improve the emphasis on facilities for regular cyclists, such as dropped curbs, advanced stop lines and reasonably direct routes. However, we are disappointed that neither the *Initial Objectives* nor the *Medium and Long Term Objectives* in the final plan offer much for experienced cyclists, such as commuters.

**Glasgow Cycling Forum** – The next meeting will be held in late February. We hope to discuss subjects such as the recent changes to the Colleges route (described below), Glasgow's Strategic Plan for Cycling and progress on the routes around the new Southern General Hospital.

## Local routes and facilities

**Funding for path in Lancefield Quay area** – Councillor Craig MacKay has reported that funding has been secured to undertake improvement works between Lancefield Quay and the Kingston Bridge, including the NCN 75, and that design work continues to make progress. He has also requested that the upgrading of the poor surface of the route via the Riverside Museum be brought forward and completed before the museum opens in a few weeks.

**Colleges cycle route** – Glasgow City Council's work to upgrade this route has generated considerable controversy. Some of the new cycle lanes on the outside of parking spaces are too narrow for safe cycling; the new lane is less than the width of an opened car door in Highburgh Road, for example, which is clearly dangerous. Parking has been moved from the uphill to the downhill side of University Avenue near Kelvin Way but no new cycle lane has yet appeared on the uphill side. At the other end of University Avenue the cycle lane approaching Byres Road has been slimmed down so that it is now too narrow for a bicycle and rider. Go Bike will report our concerns to the next meeting of the Glasgow Cycling Forum.

**Join OpenStreetMap** – Contribute to free maps for cyclists by cyclists! OpenStreetMap is created by volunteers and provides information for <[www.cyclestreets.net](http://www.cyclestreets.net)> and <[www.opencyclemap.org](http://www.opencyclemap.org)> among others. The local group holds social meetings every three months (February, May, August and November) on the third Tuesday at 1930 in the Terrace Bar CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts.

**Airdrie to Bathgate cycle path delayed** – The Airdrie to Bathgate cycle path, part of National Cycle Network Route 75, will now not open until May 2011. This is due to delays in construction by Network Rail. Go Bike's *Welcome Back* ride along this path, originally scheduled for last December, has been postponed until September.

**SPT cycle lockers to be removed** – In December 2010 Strathclyde Partnership for Transport gave notice to users of its cycle lockers that the hire scheme would be terminated at the end of January 2011. This is due to the cost of operating the scheme and vandalism. We hope that this does not affect other station locker schemes such as the free South Lanarkshire Council lockers at various stations.

**New cycle track between Parnie Street and Glasgow Green** – Glasgow City Council is proposing this segregated cycle route in the St Andrew's Square area of Glasgow. It will involve new Toucan crossings across Saltmarket, Charlotte Street and Greendyke Street, and cycle track on St Andrew's Street, James Morrison Street and London Road. There will also be one-way operation for other traffic on St Andrew's Street, Turnbull Street and James Morrison Street. Full details are on the web site. Statutory consultation has now been completed.

**Worn-out cycle lanes in Knightswood** – Members of Go Bike in Knightswood are asked to write to their councillors to request that the cycle lanes in Alderman Road and Southbrae Drive are reinstated. The cycle lanes are now several years old and the markings are worn out. In Southbrae Drive, markings have not been reinstated after resurfacing. See <[glasgow.cyclestreets.net](http://glasgow.cyclestreets.net)> for photos.

**Scottish town in grip of cycling revolution** – The Herald ran an article on 3 December 2010 about Mark Kiehlmann's success in raising the level of cycling to school. 'Children in the town of Bishopbriggs, near Glasgow, have brought about something akin to a cycling revolution, with the numbers of pupils riding to and from school approaching levels normally seen in mainland Europe'. Mark has helped distribute more than £30,000 in grants from government and cycling charities through East Dunbartonshire's Cycle Co-op, which he founded. (From [www.heraldscotland.com](http://www.heraldscotland.com))

## National and international news

**Scottish Bike Show** – The first ever show will be held at the SECC on 16–17 April 2011.

**Bike Week** – Team Green Britain Bike Week 2011 will take place 18–26 June. See <[www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)> nearer the time for events; Go Bike usually participates in several local rides.

**Every mile of road 'has ten potholes'** – Britain has a pothole crisis and the nation's roads must be made safer, said Olympic cyclist Victoria Pendleton. According to the latest figures, an average of around 10 potholes dot every mile of road in England and Wales, and the total number will pass two million for the first time this year. Cyclists are now being deterred from using their bikes because of poor road surfaces, Miss Pendleton said. (From [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk))

**On-line cycle parking project** – ParkThatBike is a website that enables people to comment on cycle parking in their area. By visiting <[www.parkthatbike.info](http://www.parkthatbike.info)> you can identify places where cycle parking is needed, report existing cycle parking that is damaged or vandalised, and locate 'wheel-benders', slotted slabs, and other forms of cycle parking that fall below modern standards. (From [www.cyclenation.org.uk](http://www.cyclenation.org.uk))

**Cyclists: cool, but are they happy?** – Results from a YouGov survey commissioned by the Bristol Social Marketing Centre at the University of the West of England (UWE), found, amongst other things, that: 42% of the British public (cyclists and non-cyclists) think that 'cycling has become cool nowadays'; 43% agreed that 'When I'm stuck in a traffic jam I sometimes wish I were cycling'; 28% agreed and 50% disagreed that 'roads are for cars not bikes'. While the findings suggested that cyclists see themselves as independent minded and free spirited, environmentally aware, adventurous, and even somewhat rebellious, non-cyclists generally think that cyclists as not nearly as happy as they report themselves to be. (From [www.cyclenation.org.uk](http://www.cyclenation.org.uk))

**Cycle to Work scheme creates new cyclists** – The Cycle to Work Alliance <[cycletoworkalliance.org.uk](http://cycletoworkalliance.org.uk)> claims that 61% of people did not cycle to work before they signed up to the Cycle to Work scheme and that 70% classed themselves as either novice or occasional cyclists. (From [www.cyclingscotland.org](http://www.cyclingscotland.org))

# Cycle rides 2011

*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 unless otherwise stated. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number with you in case of problems: 07932 460093.*

## **Sunday 6 March 2011 – Glasgow Parks Tour**

A mystery tour of parks and sights around Glasgow, mostly on quiet roads and various paths, ending up in Glasgow Green for food and refreshments.

## **Sunday 3 April 2011 – Glasgow to Kilmacolm and Erskine Bridge**

A ride along the NCN 75 cycle path for lunch in Kilmacolm. After lunch, cross the Erskine Bridge and return to Glasgow along the Forth and Clyde Canal.

## **Sunday 1 May 2011 – Strathclyde Park and back**

To Strathclyde Park following NCN 75 out of Glasgow along the River Clyde, then heading through Uddingston to Strathclyde Park. After lunch, return to Glasgow via High Blantyre and Gilbertfield, before descending into Rutherglen to return to Glasgow Green. Option to return by train from Hamilton.

## **Sunday 5 June 2011 – The Campsies**

Leaving Glasgow via the Forth and Clyde Canal and Strathkelvin Path, this route heads to Lennoxton to tackle the Crow Road over to Fintry. After lunch, return to Glasgow via the Carron Valley and the Tak Ma Doon Road to Kilsyth, then joining the canal at Twechar. A long ride with a lot of hill climbing. Those wanting a shorter, less demanding ride are welcome to join us as far as Lennoxton, and then return to Glasgow via the outward route.

## **Sunday 3 July 2011 – Killearn and the West Highland Way**

Starting from Dumbarton, this ride takes the NCN 7 cycle route through Balloch Castle Country Park and on towards Killearn on minor roads. After lunch, return to Milngavie and Glasgow via part of the West Highland Way and the Kelvin Cycleway. Please note that this section of the West Highland Way is unsurfaced and quite rough.

*Meet 1025 at Dumbarton Central station. (Catch 0952 train from Partick to Dumbarton Central (Motherwell to Balloch train))*

## **Sunday 7 August 2011 – Strathaven and back**

Heading south from Glasgow, through Queen's Park, Carmunnock Village and East Kilbride to visit the tea-rooms of Strathaven. After lunch return to Glasgow via the Cathkin Braes, and ending up at the Suspension Bridge. Mostly on quiet city and country roads, with short sections on slightly busier roads.

## **Sunday 4 September 2011 – Airdrie to Edinburgh**

A ride along the newly reopened Airdrie to Bathgate NCN 75 cycle path for lunch in Livingston Village. After lunch, cross Livingston on part of the extensive path network, then join Union Canal for ride into Edinburgh, passing the castle. Return from Edinburgh by train.

*Meet 1015 at Airdrie station. (Catch 0945 train from Glasgow Queen Street Low Level station to Airdrie)*

## **Glasgow Fair Weekend Ride**

### **Saturday 16–Monday 18 July 2011 – NCN 1 from Newcastle to Edinburgh**

This will cover some 150 miles along varied terrain: the spectacular Northumberland coast and castles on the first day, the winding Tweed valley on the second day and rolling Moorfoot hills on the final day. As in past years, the event will be run jointly with GOC Scotland and may be booked online using their PayPal booking facility. The early booking cost of £67 includes single rail fare from Glasgow or Edinburgh to Newcastle, two nights youth hostel accommodation (at Berwick upon Tweed and Melrose), breakfasts on Sunday and Monday mornings, and dinner at Melrose YH on the Sunday night. This is based on a discounted rail fare so please book early using the link on the Go Bike web site or email [weekend11@gobike.org](mailto:weekend11@gobike.org) promptly.

*Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!*

A page for past rides has been added to the Go Bike website: see [www.gobike.org/ridespast.php](http://www.gobike.org/ridespast.php).

For further organised rides in the Glasgow area see CTC Glasgow, for Ayrshire see CTC Ayrshire, for Edinburgh see Spokes, and for relaxed weekend rides in Scotland and Northern England, try Mellow Velo.

## Meetings

The next Go Bike committee meeting will be held on **Thursday 24 March 2011** in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. Directions can be found on the web site. Future meetings will be on 2 June, 8 September and 17 November (AGM). Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite are always welcome.

The current committee of Go Bike is Jonathan Ridge (Convenor), Tricia Fort (Vice Convenor), Peter Hayman, Calum McCallum, Alan Munro (Membership Secretary), Andy Preece (Treasurer and Cycling Policy Officer) and John Davies (Newsletter Editor). A volunteer for the post of Secretary would be most welcome!

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2011 if they have not done so already? 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

Go Bike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign  
PO Box 15175  
Glasgow  
G4 9LP

Phone: 07932 460093  
Email: [campaigns@gobike.org](mailto:campaigns@gobike.org)  
Web: [www.gobike.org](http://www.gobike.org)

## 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 and make cheques payable to 'Go Bike – Strathclyde Cycle Campaign'.

Name.....

Address.....

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

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

I wish to purchase a Glasgow Cycle Map at £4.95 .....

*New members* – How did you hear about Go Bike?.....