



Godalming Cycle Campaign

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

Godalming Cycle Campaign: who are we?

By Martyn Sandford

Godalming Cycle Campaign has a vision... a community where active travel is safe and convenient for all ages and abilities.

For three decades, the Godalming Cycle Campaign has been working to improve cycling and walking in Godalming, Farncombe and the surrounding area.

We love cycling, hence our name, but we are keen for people to enjoy the benefits of active travel, whether that's walking, cycling, jogging, using a wheelchair, pushing a toddler in their buggy... or combinations of them all!

*If you feel the same,
come and join us.*

*Your support, no matter
how large or small is
vital to making it
happen!*



What is the Guildford Godalming Greenway?

By David Moxon

A switch from cars to walking and cycling is a crucial part of building back better after Covid. In the past, ambitious cycling targets have been set then dropped when it has become obvious that the necessary political will, and therefore cash, simply weren't there to deliver them.

The Surrey Cycling Plan, published in 2014, is excellent. But, once again, it seemed that the problem of over-promising and under-delivering would strike again. Then Covid encouraged a lot of people to revive old bikes or buy new ones and the pressure for better cycling facilities has increased. So now there's a chance that Surrey's modest goal of "more people cycling, more safely" might be met.

This is where THE GREENWAY comes in. The Guildford Bicycle Users Group (G-Bug) and Godalming Cycle Campaign have taken the initiative in devising this largely off-road route, intended not just for cyclists but for pedestrians and wheelchair users too. It is designed to be used and enjoyed by all age groups.

More than 150,000 people live within a mile of the proposed route which will link them to each other and to local shops, schools, leisure facilities, public transport and so on. It will be valuable both for recreation and as part of the transport infrastructure. The goal is that no one will use a car simply because the active travel alternatives are perceived as unsafe or unpleasant.

A cycle route is only as good as its weakest link - one awkward or hazardous stretch will often rule it out, for example as a safe route to school. To this end, great care is being taken over the way the links join up, to avoid difficult junctions and busy roads.

For more details there is an excellent website:

<http://www.guildfordgodalminggreenway.com>



Update: funding has been allocated to do research on the spine route from Guildford to Godalming.

'My bike journey': a personal experience

By Juliet Woolf

After recognising the importance of Active Travel, I decided that I needed to make changes in my own life style so that I could lower my carbon footprint and get fitter. My new job is just 5km from my house, near enough to cycle to work. But the dark winter mornings and the dangerous ride along the narrow Munstead Heath Road, towards Bramley, put me off.

With the prospect of lighter mornings, I was determined to start cycling after the Easter Holidays. I bought a luminous rucksack and located a secure place at work where I could lock my bike. I could not wait to get started!

There are many reasons why people don't cycle to work but safety should not be an issue. Godalming Cycle Campaign (GCC) is supporting local councillors who want speed limits to be dropped to 20MPH in some areas, to encourage safe routes to places such as schools, leisure centres and public transport links.

Writing this article I was reminded of the first time I cycled to work. It was back in 1975. I lived in Farncombe and cycled to The Inn On The Lake in Godalming every Wednesday evening to wash up, and at the weekends to do Chamber Mairding.

Back then I was fit and didn't need the assistance of an electric bike. Often cycling home in the dark I would cut up the pathway alongside Jewsons, it was narrow then, but today it is wider and safer due to pressure from Godalming Cycle Campaign. The alleyway that runs from Marshall Road to Farncombe Level crossing was terrifying for me and I would speed down there as fast as I could.

Unfortunately, that alleyway has not changed and is still dangerous and scary at night. Godalming Cycle Campaign is trying to address this issue and widen the alleyway and make it suitable for cyclists and pedestrians to pass. I feel that this would be a real opportunity that will benefit the community and make it much safer.

Godalming Cycle Campaign would like to hear from you.

Do you have any cycling stories we could publish?

What is stopping you from participating in Active Travel?

Is it something which we can campaign to change for the better?



Active Travel campaigns and initiatives

Cycling UK has a new campaign called 'Cycle Powered Covid Recovery'. Cycling UK is a charity based in Guildford that campaigns for cyclists and promotes cycling throughout the UK.

The new campaign encourages people to contact their local councillors and MPs to let them know the benefits of providing road space and infrastructure to make cycling safer and a more attractive option.

Various surveys last year showed that the majority of the public are in favour of more provision for cycling. The more people who write in support the better. There is money available to local authorities for this. A pre-prepared letter and more information is available at <https://www.cyclinguk.org/cycle-powered-covid-recovery>

Social rides

From time to time, Godalming Cycle Campaign organises inclusive, sociable rides around our area. We meet in Farncombe or Godalming and set off for a leisurely ride, taking in our beautiful countryside and an all important stop for coffee/tea and cake (the cake being the highlight of the ride)!

As restrictions are eased, we hope to start riding again and we would love to hear from you if you would like to join us. Whether you have been riding for a long time or you are just starting, you will be made very welcome.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in attending a course to become a ride leader or assistant leader.

Keep in touch with us

We would love to hear from you and we would be glad to know that you are following us on our social media channels!



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