

CYCLE CHESTERFIELD



NEWSLETTER

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www.cyclechesterfield.org
affiliated to Cycling UK and Cyclenation

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COMMENT.

Spring has sprung. So, if you have not been out on your bike this year yet it's time to pump up those tyres, oil that chain, and get out there. 2025 is going to be a great year for cycling locally, with lots to look forward to including the Cycle Festival, Friday Night Rides, Ben Vernon Ride, and we're hosting the revived East Midlands Cycle Forum this year too. **Jason**

If you have any contributions, articles, or feedback for the newsletter, all of which will be gratefully received, please email me via; newsletter@cyclechesterfield.org

Email update.

Our secretary sends out an email update roughly every month, if for some reason you don't receive this into your 'inbox' and would like to please contact the secretary at this address.

secretary@cyclechesterfield.org

Other local campaigning groups.

Derby Cycling Group

Derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

Cycle Sheffield

Cyclesheffield.org.uk

Ride Sheffield

www.ridesheffield.org.uk

Pedals (Nottingham)

Pedals.org.uk

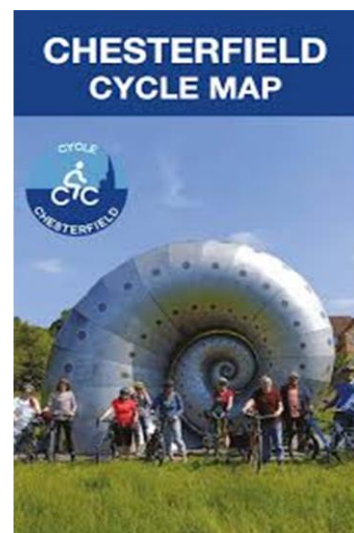
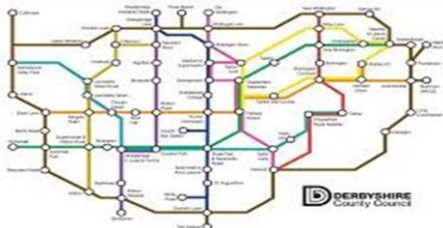


Cover image: Out on bikes in Chesterfield



DARK NIGHTS but lighter **MORNINGS**: **Be safe, Be seen.**

Our Cycle Map is now available – so ensure you have got your new copy!



Newsletter Delivery

If you would prefer your newsletter emailed out to you as opposed to being delivered by hand (cycle) or posted please let us know.

Please also ensure you confirm the email address that you want to be used.



Women on bikes: safety matters

Encouraging more women to cycle is one of Cycling UK's priorities for action in 2025.

The following is an extract from the most recent edition of Cycle magazine (Feb/March 25) issued by Cycling UK to its members and to local cycling organisations like Cycle Chesterfield.

“Women make half as many cycling trips as men, largely due to their perception of risk...

One of Cycling UK's aims this year will be focussing on how we can make cycling feel safer for women... The gender disparity in perceptions of safety is reflected across the UK and is especially noticeable in urban areas. A 2024 survey of more than 2000 respondents showed that 90% of women fear cycling in cities.

There are other factors that tend to affect women more than men. 62% said that they are scared of road rage or harassment and 56% of women fear cycling at night. Some of those things are down to wider societal issues and you might ask how a cycling charity could hope to tackle them.

But there are changes that could have a significant effect.

The design and location of cycle paths has a big impact on how safe they feel to use.

Are these facilities protected from motor vehicles and well connected – or isolated, dark, disjointed? Are they wide enough to cycle with a cargo bike, three wheeler, or trailer – or blocked by barriers? And do route plans reflect the zig zagging short trips that women still tend to make more often, or are they just linear commuting routes into town centres?

It's not just about cycle paths. We need roads to feel safer too. Reducing speeds and restricting residential rat-running makes cycling more appealing. We also need to make sure that councils have the funding – and the confidence – to make changes, knowing that residents will support them.

... Cycling UK has been at the forefront of championing equal access to cycling. Let's continue that legacy by striving for the day when women in the UK are just as likely to cycle as men. Because if we make cycling safer for women, it will feel safer for everyone.”

So it's over to you as the members of Cycle Chesterfield. Around 40% of the members of Cycle Chesterfield are girls or women:

- What are your thoughts or experiences of cycling safely around Chesterfield, either on or off the existing cycle path network?
- Where and when do you feel safe or unsafe?
- What needs to change or improve to get more women to cycle around Chesterfield?
- Where do you need to go and what will help you to get there by bike?

We would welcome your feedback.

Here's how you can share your experiences:

1. Come along to the next Cycle Chesterfield members meeting on Tues 11th March 7pm at the Library to join in the discussion about preparing a Cycling "Masterplan" for Chesterfield – we need women's voices as part of that discussion.
2. Check out local rides for women this summer organised by Women Cycle Too (part of Inclusive Pedals CIC)
3. Contact me through secretary@cyclechesterfield.org if you would be willing to have a longer conversation (by phone or over a coffee) with another local female cyclist to share your thoughts about safer cycling around Chesterfield.

Happy cycling around Chesterfield! It's a good cycling network in some places but it could be better. Let's make sure that any future improvements will reflect everyone's needs.

You can join Cycling UK (registered charity 1147607) as an individual member and receive copies of their bi-monthly magazine, online bulletins about campaigns and offers, 3rd party liability insurance, access to legal advice and other membership benefits. For more information, go to: www.cyclinguk.org

Kathy Farr

Secretary's Update

I think we are all looking forward to the start of some warmer and drier weather so we can get out on our bikes again. We probably all know of some hardy soul who has continued cycling through the winter months, either commuting to work or school, or visiting the shops or friends. Well done to all those of you who have continued using your bikes through the winter whether by choice or necessity.

The icy weather was certainly very challenging and many cycle routes were ice bound and un-useable for long periods of time. With this in mind, we are continuing this year with our campaign to try and improve the maintenance of cycle routes around Chesterfield by encouraging members to report faults to Derbyshire County Council (DCC). There is a link on our website to the DCC reporting tool. We will also continue to lobby DCC to develop a plan for maintenance and to support us in our bid to make cycling a safer and more accessible option in Chesterfield. The improvements to the trail alongside the canal to Hollingwood and the ongoing works from Hollingwood to Staveley are a positive improvement of our local network.

In our AGM in November we looked at the results of the members survey and agreed that the priorities that you voted for should be adopted in 2025.

1. Rolling out the promotion of a cycle friendly employer scheme in Chesterfield. We will publicise the Cycling UK scheme to employers across Chesterfield and will explain the benefits of encouraging cycling amongst employees. If you know of a receptive employer, please let us know.

2. We will also be updating our cycle audit of Chesterfield. This is a chance to imagine what safe and accessible cycling infrastructure could look like in Chesterfield. We are planning on having an interactive Members event on the evening of 11th March at Chesterfield library to explore this further. We would really welcome your attendance to share your views on what needs to improve and what works well already.

3. We will also be campaigning for improvements to cycle infrastructure around Chesterfield both at the Avenue Washlands site and at the Waterside development. Our Chair, and planning lead, Alastair Meikle will provide further details of this ongoing work.

We will be hosting another cycling Festival in July this year with speakers and rides. We will be joined by other local cycling clubs who will be running on road and off-road rides to highlight the opportunities cyclists have to enjoy trips on 2 wheels in our area. This is our annual celebration of cycling and the planning has already started.

The desire to encourage more people to cycle, often focusses upon infrastructure improvements as the catalyst. Clearly, better, well designed, joined up and adequately lit cycle lanes and routes are essential, alongside good signage and secure parking facilities. But it is also important to work to promote and encourage the idea of cycling more widely

amongst all sectors of the population and to show what is possible. Getting a wide range of participation from all those that want to cycle, and making cycling more accessible and representative is a key aim of Cycling UK this year. We support them in that work.

I look forward to seeing you either out on 2 wheels or at one of our meetings in the coming months. Ride safely

Martin Farr, Secretary.

Top tips for locking your bike

we are cycling UK

- ✓ If you can, use two different Sold Secure locks
- ✓ Lock the frame together with a wheel to the stand
- ✗ Do not just lock the wheel to the frame/stand

For more tips on keeping your bike safe, using BikeRegister, safer routes to and from the station and more, visit: cyclinguk.org/cycle-rail

Chesterfield Cycle Audit

What is a cycle audit? It's a way of reviewing the infrastructure and facilities that exist for cycling and an opportunity to look at what might be missing and what might be improved. Cycle Chesterfield last reviewed the local cycle network in 2009 and 2016.

We are keen to have a fresh look at what improvements could be made around Chesterfield so that we have a plan to help shape the development of the best possible infrastructure and facilities locally. The development of our own ideas / plan should help to guide council decisions on cycle improvements that will make a real difference, and over time those improvements will help to encourage more people to choose cycling as a genuine choice for their journeys.

We will be starting this process in our next Members Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 11th March in the Library Meeting room. We will be aiming to have an engaging evening with some discussions, videos, presentations and a chance to look at our local map and to suggest new infrastructure and improvements to the existing network.

If you miss this meeting, don't worry, we will be having further engagement with members about what the cycle plan for Chesterfield should look like and we will also aim to have a number of infrastructure rides later in the year to look at the details on the ground.



Martin Farr, Secretary.

E-scooters

Did you know?

- ▶ It is illegal to use an e-scooter in public areas.
- ▶ An e-scooter can only legally be used on private land with the owner's permission.
- ▶ Parents may also be liable for prosecution as well.

As of Friday 1 November, officers who engage anyone using an e-scooter in a public place will seize the e-scooter, before sending it to be disposed after 14 days.

Previously, those caught offending were warned for a first offence of riding an e-scooter on a public road, pavement or cycle path. Going forwards there is no longer any requirement in Derbyshire to warn the rider.



Inclusive Pedals

Enabling everyone to cycle 

A social enterprise in Chesterfield running various cycling projects - www.inclusivepedals.org.uk.

From April until October our monthly adapted cycling sessions in the Queen's Park are once again very busy. Our fleet of 12 three and four wheeled cycles are in constant use for the two-hour session usually on the first Friday of the month - please note the September session has been postponed until Friday 20th due to a cricket match on the 1st Friday!

We're always looking for volunteers to help at these events, mainly to cycle the 'bikes' from the storage containers in the Queen's Park car park to the cricket pitch and back (starting just before 1.00pm and finishing at 3.00pm). If you can offer to help, please contact us by email info@inclusivepedals.org.uk or pop along to a session. The August session including an 'Olympic flame' brought by one group!

Another of our projects which is volunteer led is Cycling Without Age. Our volunteer riders currently visit two care homes each week on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Cycling the Triobikes from the Queen's Park. There is always an 'outrider' on a standard bike to help with road crossings etc. The Triobikes have electric assistance and are very easy to ride. If you would like to help with these rewarding sessions, please contact cwa@inclusivepedals.org.uk. You don't have to commit to every session, with our growing number of volunteers you can dip in and out as you wish.

Our regular monthly **Dr Bike workshops** provide free repairs while you wait:

Langer Field pavilion on 1st Wednesday of the month 4.00pm until 6.00pm

Queen's Park car park 1st Saturday on the month, March to October 9.30am until 1.00pm, November to February 10.30am until 12.30pm.

Hollingwood Hub 2nd Sunday of the month until October, midday until 3.00pm.

Don't forget our women's group as part of our Community Cycle Club. **'Women Cycle Too'** organise regular rides. Recently to Creswell Crags and Rother Valley Park.

From the Chair

I'm very pleased to see that planning for our third cycle festival is well under way and that other local groups are stepping forward to deliver rides during the festival week. Hopefully we can increase the numbers taking part again.

Another event that we are organising is the East Midland Cycle Forum on Saturday 11th October. Long time members will recall that the forum of cycle campaigning groups used to meet annually (sometimes twice) alternating between hosting in towns and cities of the East Midlands. The first meeting was held in 2006 in Derby but no meetings since Covid.

The day usually consists of speakers in the morning (we're planning for Cycling UK & Sustrans) followed by updates from each campaigning group. Then lunch with a chance to chat followed by a ride looking at new infrastructure. It really is a good opportunity to meet and hear from fellow cyclists and campaigners.

Many of you will know I'm one of the mechanics at Dr Bike, for the second year running we decided to carry on through the winter with reduced hours. In January we decided to cancel because of the forecast of high wind but the other workshops have been remarkably busy. I take that as a good sign that people are continuing to use their bikes through the winter!

I must admit that I haven't been riding as much during the winter though. Apart from using a bike for local trips I do like to go out on the Trans Pennine Trail and on one of my circuits out to Staveley and back I was pleased to see a connection already built into the large new housing development in Inkersall. Although it was included in the development plans these sorts of connections are usually left until the very last or never built so it was good to see it. Eventually there should be a cycle route through the development to Inkersall Road which will lead into Poolsbrook Country Park.



Hoping it gets a bit warmer very soon!

Alistair Meikle, Chair

Planning

Since the last newsletter there have been several planning items of interest.

On Goyt Side either side of the small terrace of houses near Lidl. On the west side there are plans for five terraced houses with a vehicle entrance to a car park off Factory Street. When Lidl was built the footway from the Lidl entrance on Factory Street up to and round the corner on Goyt Side was widened to become a shared path. This has never been signed and the vehicle entrance will cross the path.

On the other side of the terrace up to the electric substation there are plans to build five small industrial units (including 3 Sheffield stands for bike parking).

Both applications have now been approved and will no doubt increase traffic along Goyt Side which is the east west cycle route. We still await Derbyshire County Council's (DCC) extra marking of this on road section which was originally planned to be a segregated route.

An application from DCC; when the museum/theatre reopens there is a plan to make Corporation Street one way (eastbound) with a contraflow cycle lane to allow cyclists to cycle up from the station. We have concerns that taxis will still park there if two cars can get past each other (thus blocking the cycle lane) which we have conveyed to DCC.

Others of less concern are:

- A new police custody suite at Dunston near the rugby club, ample cycle parking provided but the application ignores the cycle route running past.
- In Duckmanton there is a large housing development planned with internal cycle routes shown but no links to existing routes nearby.

At our February meeting we agreed to prioritise two important issues for 2025;

- The Avenue site (poor surfacing and K barriers) which should be an extension on NCN67.
- The bridge from the Trans Pennine Trail over the river to the new housing development at Waterside which will facilitate NCN67 & Trans Pennine Trail eventually avoiding Brimington Road.

It is unlikely either of these will be completed in 2025 but we would like to see some progress towards completion.

Lastly, Active Travel England recently announced the active travel grants for 25/26. The East Midlands Combined Authority will receive just over £5.5M (£5574643).

Alistair Meikle, Chair

Cycling Without Age



GET IN TOUCH AND COME AND MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS, FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND TRY OUT A RIDE ON A TRIOBIKE

QUEEN'S PARK NORTH CAR PARK



Could you be one of our volunteer 'pilots'?

Come and have a chat to find out more and try out our electrically assisted 'Triobikes'.

Cycling Without Age is a social inclusion project and in Chesterfield we have two Triobikes and do regular rides from two local care homes but we have other care homes wanting to join the project but need more volunteer 'pilots' to join our current team.

www.inclusivepedals.org.uk

info@inclusivepedals.org.uk

 @inclusivepedals

0771 333 4635

Find us with the Dr Bike workshop, car park entrance S40 2NF or What3Words ///secret.leader.tracks

Promote Cycle Chesterfield this Spring!

Ethical T shirt £12.60/ Standard T shirt £8.50/ Standard polo shirt £12



We would anticipate that if we bulk purchase again (5+ items) the cost per item would be less.

If you are interested in owning a Cycle Chesterfield T shirt or polo shirt, then please send your expression of interest to Martin at secretary@cyclechesterfield.org

A range of colours and sizes are available.

Cycle Chesterfield also have small badges available free for members and supporters.

Martin Farr, Secretary.



Regular Local Cycling Events.

Dr Bike: Facebook - ChesterfieldDrBike or www.inclusivepedals.org.uk

1st Saturday of the month March to October 9.30am until 1.00pm. Queen's Park north car park (look for the gazebo near the miniature railway crossing). October to March 10.30 until 12.30pm. Checks, adjustments, and repairs. Also, in Langer Field pavilion on 1st Wed on the month 4.00pm until 6.00pm (but check for details). There is no charge for parts or labour, donations always welcome!



Inclusive Pedals are running a new community cycle club women only rides with the support of Cycling UK. The rides will be led by their director Sharon and Cycling Without Age volunteer Bex. See social media for details and www.inclusivepedals.org.uk.

Friday Night Ride: Facebook - ChesterfieldFNR

First Friday of the month May until September, usually with a theme. Leaving from the Town Hall steps 6.30pm and finish around 8.00pm. Get in touch if you want to lead a ride or have an idea for a ride route/ destination. When confirmed, rides will be advertised on the Cycle Chesterfield social media.

Spire Cycling Club: chesterfieldspirecycling.co.uk, **please note the new address. Thanks again to Andy Stacey for getting in touch with the update.**

Inclusive Pedals: www.inclusivepedals.org.uk

Amongst other activities adapted cycling taster sessions on the 1st Friday of the month March to October between 1.00pm and 3.00pm in the Queen's Park using fleet of trikes. 2 seaters, wheelchair carrying trike and hand cycles.

Breeze rides: <https://letsride.co.uk/rides/breeze-around-clumber-park>. 'Join us for a gentle off road ride around the beautiful Clumber Park. Each month we will take a different route and explore different areas of the park. There are woodland trails, heathland and cycle tracks of various surfaces. Some of these become very muddy in wet weather so off road tyres are a must between October and March. Most of our routes will be off road and traffic free. There will be an occasional road crossing or short section to get to the next trail. There are some hills but we keep these to a minimum. First-timers welcome! The rides are always on the first Saturday of the month and from Saturday 2 March 10.10 am through to Saturday 7th December 2024. Women only.

Cycle Chesterfield Rides: organised on an ad hoc basis with a theme. Keep an eye on social media for details.

Support Cycle Chesterfield

Meetings are currently usually being held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm with a virtual and in person rolling programme. Check social media. All welcome to attend.

To report road faults, telephone Derbyshire County Council on 0845 605 8058

Please consider joining Cycle Chesterfield online at
www.cyclechesterfield.org

or 'manually' with this form:

- - - - -

Membership Form

Full Name Tel

.....

Address

.....

Email

.....

Membership Type (please tick)

Adult, £5[] Family, £10*[]

Unwaged, £2.50[] Under 18. £1 []

Optional donations welcome [£]

* Family membership includes up to 2 adults and all children under 18 living at the same address. Please give names and ages of all children below.

*Please send this form together with a cheque payable to: 'Cycle Chesterfield' Membership Secretary, C/O 4 Inkerman Cottages, Ashgate, Chesterfield S40 4BP
NB. These details will be stored electronically.*