

# CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Published quarterly

Number 62 Summer 2013



**Our 300th Member Joins on May Day**

[www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk](http://www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk)

Affiliated to the CTC and Cyclenation

Printed on recycled paper



# CAMPAIGN CHAT

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Information from the travel census of 2011 has revealed that Chesterfield has 0.7% of the population commuting to work by bike. This compares with 1% overall in Derbyshire.

It was noted at the March meeting that there are no cycle racks available at Walton Shops, so we will see if we can get some installed there. If you are aware of any other locations that would benefit from cycle parking, please let the Secretary know.

Earlier in the year, we asked Derbyshire County Council if they would trim back vegetation on the shared cycle path along Loundsley Green road. In places, the path had been reduced to less than half its original width making it awkward to pass other path users.

The work has now taken place and they have done an excellent job. Not only have the bushes been substantially trimmed back, they have also scraped back turf at the path edges right back to the original edging

stones making a significant difference to the useable width.

The Campaign was invited to attend a Community Day on 16th March. These events are a great way to promote utility cycling and the work of the Campaign but unfortunately we were unable to attend as we didn't have any volunteers to run the stall. If you would be willing to help out with any future events, please let the Secretary know.

Work on the Trans Pennine Trail, that had originally been scheduled to take place in March, has been delayed. The section of canal tow path between Tapton Lock Visitors' Centre and Station Road at Brimington was due to be resurfaced but problems with the original contractor resulted in a new one needing to be appointed. A new footpath closure notice is in place from 29th April to 28th June, but the work is anticipated to only take three weeks to complete.

Due to refurbishment works on the Market Hall, our monthly

meetings moved to a new venue last year and currently take place in the Town Hall. However, since that time, there has been a noticeable drop in attendance with some people remarking that they would not go to a meeting at the Town Hall.



Therefore, we are considering moving to a new location; possibly hiring a pub room so that there is an opportunity to socialise after the formal business. If agreed, the new details will be published next issue and on our website.

The Campaign had a stall in the Winding Wheel and members took part in the parade at the May Day event this year. Around a dozen cyclists gathered for an 11 am start and followed the march along its route through the town centre.

The stall wasn't quite so well attended as usual this year,

possibly because of its indoor venue and the beautiful weather keeping people outdoors. There was quite a lot of interest after midday, we sold items to the value of £20.30 and gained two new members.

As we reported last issue, at the end of last year Derbyshire County Council submitted a planning application for the long-awaited extension to the Hipper Valley Trail from Somersall to Holymoorside. Originally it had been hoped that a decision would be made in the Spring with work starting early Summer.

Unfortunately, due to an issue with some of the documentation

provided, the application had to be withdrawn at the beginning of April and then resubmitted.

This should only have caused minor delays, as the majority of the work to look through the

application had already completed. However, elections in May meant that the next planning committee wouldn't be until June but we hope to hear of a decision very soon.

## AVENUE WORKS PROGRESS

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Decontamination works at the former Avenue Coking Works at Wingerworth are due to be completed in 2015, making the land available for redevelopment from 2016.

With this in mind, developers have been consulting with the public on their proposals which include up to 500 homes for sale and rent. Their intention was to submit a planning application to North East Derbyshire District Council in March 2013 but, at the time of writing, this hadn't taken place.

The planning consultation boards are available to view on The Avenue's website and Board 3 shows the proposed network of multi-user paths around the site. The main omission seems to be a direct link to the railway bridge at the north-eastern corner of the site. The Chesterfield Cycle Network has a proposed link from Storforth Lane via this bridge into The Avenue site and any cyclists

heading south would have to negotiate a long detour to the west before turning south.

The Campaign intends to inspect the plans closely when they become available, as we expect the development to have a significant impact on motor traffic. Derbyshire County Council has already had sight of the pre-planning documents and are gearing up for a robust response, plus we also have the involvement of Sustrans as the Avenue is perfectly placed to extend Route 67 through the site from Storforth Lane to Mill Lane.

For more information, visit [www.theavenueproject.co.uk](http://www.theavenueproject.co.uk) and click the link to the Public Consultation in the menu.

# CLIMATE EVENT IN MARCH

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On 8th March, the Campaign held a stall at an environment and climate event in Chesterfield Library.

We attracted plenty of interest, helped by a good location, and spoke with a steady trickle of visitors throughout the day on a wide range of topics.

One irate man began by raging against cyclists riding on footpaths, but softened following a constructive conversation with one of our volunteers. He was encouraged to write to the council about the issue; whilst we want to make cycling safer, we don't want the hazard transferred to pedestrians.

Others included a veteran CTC member who had for many years organised CTC tours nationally; several people who rode regularly and welcomed our maps; others who wanted information for rising cyclists – children or returners – covering training, type of cycles, and safe areas to ride; others still who were just curious, but who welcomed the work we do. We gave old copies of Campaign News to all we could, and

impressed on them the application form on the rear.

All in all, there wasn't much time when we weren't attending to someone, either suggesting leaflets, describing routes or just "showing the face of cycling". The library staff were very helpful – and seemed unfazed when visitors tried out bells, and even the hooter!

These events provide a valuable opportunity to show 'normal' cycling and thanks must go to our volunteers who manned the stall throughout the day.

## **New members**

- Martin Fielder, Brampton
- Franchesca, Olivier & Joshua Duce, Inkersall
- Graeme Challands, Staveley
- Wayne Bexton, Matlock
- Paul Niblock, Ashgate
- Robert Copestake, Staveley
- Roger Tyler, Old Brampton

# CHESTERFIELD GATEWAY PLANS

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Chesterfield Borough Council is set to make public realm improvements to two key 'gateways' into the town centre.

The improvements will happen at the Hornsbridge roundabout and the Railway Station Link – which includes Crow Lane from the railway station past the Chesterfield Hotel and across the A61 bridge, which links to Corporation Street and the town centre.

Derbyshire County Council also have plans to raise the bridge parapets where the cycle route from the railway station crosses the A61. Currently, cyclists are

advised to dismount for their own safety as the parapet height does not meet the recommended 1.2 m.

CBC will consult with the Campaign when plans have reached the appropriate stage. We have also written to Chief Executive, Huw Bowen to let him know about DCC's existing plans for this area and encourage collaboration to achieve the best possible environment for cyclists.

## PEDAL POWERED PARTY

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On Saturday May 4th Chesterfield held its first 'pedal powered party' in the Winding Wheel. The four bike generators were built during a workshop in Derby last year coordinated by Electric Pedals who famously organised the pedal powered house on Channel 4.

The ballroom in the Winding Wheel was decorated in a 'sweet' theme to celebrate the town's connection with Trebor.

The generators' output powered the

decks and speakers for the first few hours of the party with a constant queue of children and adults willing to pedal in the ever increasing heat of the room! During the event the Roller Vixens zoomed around handing requested records to the DJ and there was dancing by several local groups.

The bikes were given a rest while local band Grassoline played and afterwards the party gradually wound down until the bikes were no longer needed.

# DCC CYCLE LIAISON MEETING

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A Derbyshire County Council Cycle Liaison Meeting was held on 18th March. Among the various Derbyshire-wide projects discussed, we received an update on the progress of the Hipper Valley extension to the railway station.

This project involves installing another bridge over the lower section of Lordsmill Street to reconnect the old railway track bed to extend the Hipper Valley Trail from its current terminus at Hipper Street South to the station.

The current timetable will see the design works taking place during 2013 with major works planned throughout 2014, and with final completion in early 2015.

We were also sorry to learn that Wayne Bexton, Greenways & Countyside Officer at Derbyshire County Council will be leaving his post. The Greenways Officer at DCC can have a great effect on traffic free trail provision; Wayne has played an important role in the Chesterfield area supporting trails and has spent a lot of time in the last few years negotiating the extension of the Hipper Valley Trail from Somersall Park

to Holymoorside. We hope that construction will start in the near future. He was also involved in the Chesterfield Cycle Audit and always attends DCC cycle meetings to give county wide updates.

Wayne has now moved to a different job within DCC and we await the appointment of his replacement. We would like to thank him for his help over the years and wish him well in the future.

Just before going to print, we also heard that Catherine Jacobs will be leaving and moving on to South Gloucestershire Council. We first encountered Catherine when she was Air Quality Officer at CBC, then worked extensively with her after she moved to DCC where she was very influential in organising the Cycle Audit and Chesterfield Cycle Network. Again, we will be sorry to see her go and wish her luck.

# SKILLSHARE WORKSHOP

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On Sunday 21st April, Transition Chesterfield, with support from Wheely Fun Wheels, ran a Bike Mechanics Skillshare Workshop at Loundsley Green Community Centre.



Two Cycle Campaign members, who were trained as bike mechanics as part of the 'Fossil Fuel to Pedal Power' project in 2011, ran the Workshop. Participants were asked to bring their bikes along and the two mechanics checked over the bikes and explained gear and brake adjustment and general servicing.

Shortly after the start of the the Workshop, nine cyclists set out from the Community Centre on the latest British Cycling Breeze

ride in Chesterfield; a programme intended to encourage more women to start cycling.

The rides are slowly becoming more popular, with two new faces this time and a new Cycling Champion in Chesterfield assisting our existing ride leader, Michelle Meikle.

Setting off at 11 am, the gentle route followed the off-road trail to Holmebrook Valley Park and

then onwards to the café. After a break for refreshments and a good chat, they took a slightly different route back, also off-road, making an impromptu stop at the outdoor gym equipment in the Park!

Returning at 1 pm, there was an opportunity to briefly drop in to the Workshop for tips and a chance to have bikes checked over.



## GET BRITAIN CYCLING

In April, a cross-party group of MPs and peers launched the “Get Britain Cycling” report which, its authors believe, could cut congestion, pollution and health spending.

The report makes 18 recommendations, in five broad topics, which could make a significant difference to cycling rates in the UK if given the right level of support from Central Government and Local Authorities.

### A new priority for investing public funds

- Create a cycling budget of £10 per person per year, increasing to £20
- Ensure local and national bodies, such as the Highways Agency, Department for Transport, and local government allocate funds to cycling of at least the local proportion of journeys done by bike.
- Cycle spending that makes a

tangible contribution to other government departments, such as Health, Education, Sport and Business, should be funded from those budgets, not just the DfT.

### Redesigning our roads, streets and communities

- a statutory requirement that cyclists' and pedestrians' needs are considered at an early stage of all new development schemes, including housing and business developments as well as traffic and transport schemes, including funding through the planning system
- revise existing design guidance, to include more secure cycle parking, continental best practice for cycle-friendly planning and design, and an audit process to help planners, engineers and architects to 'think bike' in all their work.
- The Highways Agency should draw up a programme to remove the barriers to cycle journeys parallel to or across trunk roads and motorway corridors, starting with the places where the potential for

increased cycle use is greatest.

- Local authorities should seek to deliver cycle-friendly improvements across their existing roads, including small improvements, segregated routes, and road reallocation.
- The Department for Transport should approve and update necessary new regulations, such as allowing separate traffic lights for cyclists and commencing s6 of the Road Traffic Act 2004.

### Safe driving and safe speed limits

- Extend 20 mph speed limits in towns, and consider 40mph limits on many rural lanes.
- Improve HGV safety by vehicle design, driver training, and mutual awareness with cyclists; promote rail freight and limit use of HGVs on the busiest urban streets at the busiest times, and use public sector projects to drive fleet improvements.
- Strengthen the enforcement of road traffic law, including speed limits, and ensuring that driving offences – especially those resulting in death or

injury – are treated sufficiently seriously by police, prosecutors and judges.

### Training and education

- Provide cycle training at all primary and secondary schools
- Offer widespread affordable (or free) cycle training and other programmes to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to give cycling a try, as evidenced by NICE.
- Promote cycling as a safe and normal activity for people of all ages and backgrounds.

### Political leadership

- The Government should produce a cross-departmental Cycling Action Plan, with annual progress reports.
- The Government should appoint a national Cycling Champion, an expert from outside the Department for Transport.
- The Government should set national targets to increase cycle use from less than 2% of journeys in 2011, to 10% of all journeys in 2025, and 25% by 2050

- Central and Local Government and devolved authorities should each appoint a lead politician responsible for cycling.

The Times newspaper, which has continued to back cycling since the launch of its Cities Fit for Cycling campaign last year, also launched a petition aiming to put pressure on the Prime Minister to implement the report's recommendations.

Although the petition runs until April 2014, over 60,000 people had already signed it at the time of writing in May. If it reaches 100,000 it will be considered for debate by the Backbench Business Committee.

Get Britain Cycling Report

*[http://allpartycycling.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/get-britain-cycling\\_goodwin-report.pdf](http://allpartycycling.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/get-britain-cycling_goodwin-report.pdf)*

**Sign the Times' Online Petition here:**

*<http://petitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49196>*

# BELGIAN CYCLISTS VISIT CHESTERFIELD

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Your Secretary heard about a group of Belgians cycling from Brussels to Chesterfield to go to the last home game of the football season.



He got talking to Howard Borrell, who announces at the football club, and offered his services to lead the group through Chesterfield from the Trans Pennine trail to Ashgate Hospice and then to the Proact Stadium.

The group were raising money for Ashgate Hospice so a reception committee had been arranged there and at the

Visitors Information Centre in town.

On the day, arrangements had been made to meet them at Hollingwood Hub, so your Secretary got there for the pre arranged time of 3.30pm having been told they were expecting to be there about then. Having just sat down to coffee and cake another message came through to say they were still about 10

miles north of Sheffield!

One of the party had injured his knee and arrived by train in Chesterfield to be met by Howard who brought him down by car to the Hub. By this time it was apparent they were going to be much later than anticipated so unfortunately the reception planned for them was postponed.

Eventually a small group of us gathered at the Proact stadium with Howard positioned at Tapton Lock to direct them off the trail. They rolled into the stadium car park at 8.00pm to be met by a welcoming committee from Chesterfield Football Club. A bottle of champagne was produced and the cork ceremoniously fired over the crowd.

They explained that they had been delayed by poor signposting and had taken several wrong turnings

plus suffered a couple of punctures.

Their bikes were stored at the stadium and on the Saturday they were given seats at the match and presented to the crowd. They returned to the ferry at Hull by train which Howard had managed to arrange with Hull Trains who allowed all four bikes to be booked on and gave them complimentary tickets from Doncaster!

*By Secretary, Alastair Meikle*



# CALIFORNIA DREAMING

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Perhaps it was because this was my 65th birthday year or maybe just because Mary, my partner, fancied some late sunshine, but after many years of cycle touring on our own, we decided to book our first CTC Tour to California.

Perhaps Arnie's adds had something to do with it. Anyway last October (2012) we winged it off to the Sunshine State. It wasn't so much a cycle tour as a cycling holiday. Our baggage would be carried, a first for us. We had four bases, from which we would cycle out on day rides, with a couple of one way trips thrown in.

First things first, California is sunny and can be hot, even in October and so it was on our arrival, hot, stiflingly so. The US is the only country which uses more energy in Summer than in Winter and it is clear why, for without air conditioning it was impossible to sleep. Still after a cool wet summer in the UK we weren't complaining. However, the effects on the landscape are marked to our eyes, being used to green and verdant scenery.

Everything that was not irrigated, was brown. We have shades of green, over there it is largely shades of brown.

The second thing we noticed about California is a lot of the stereotypes are true. Traffic on the highways, especially through towns was heavy. Young people and some not so young, use skate boards and in line skates as a means of transport. But more surprising bicycles we everywhere and in huge numbers. Partly this was because our first base was only a few miles from the Santa Barbara campus of the University of California, but as we moved on, it was also the case in other towns, if in lesser numbers.

All the accommodation was in Motels and our first base was in Santa Barbara around 100 miles north of Los Angeles.

The other thing that is not obvious from the images we get of California, is that apart from a mostly fairly narrow coastal strip, is quite mountainous. For the most part not Big mountains,

but big enough, 4,000 to 5,000 feet or more and higher further in land, but we didn't go near them, phew!

After a couple of runs to the beach and around the foothills surrounding Santa Barbara, we travelled up the coast a bit and out of Santa Barbara County.

Because there is only one road (Highway 101) and a huge Air Force base, (Vandenberg), in the way, we let the train take the strain to the small railway halt of Guadalupe. From there we rode up the coast through Avila Beach and on to the second

oldest town in California, of San Luis Obispo. A trip of around 40 odd miles. In SLO as it is known, we met members of the SLO Cycling Club. Now don't think cycling club in British terms, think more of a combination of cycling club cum cycle campaigning group, cum political (with a small P) pressure group and there you will have it. The membership is huge by any British standards and the stuff they get up to is fairly mind boggling, encompassing lobbying the State Government, not just the town council.



*Ballard Canyon*

*Santa Barbara Mission*



That's more or less like Chesterfield Cycle Campaign lobbying Parliament on cycling issues, because US States are virtual Countries in their own right.

After a couple of very pleasant days being led on rides by SLO Cycle Club members we moved onto our next destination of Solvang. Any one who has seen the film "Sideways" will, in that film, have seen some of the area around Solvang. Solvang means sunny pastures in Danish, apparently. It was settled by

Danish settlers in the early 20th Century and so Solvang has become a Disneyfied version of old Copenhagen. Very pretty it is in a sugar candy sort of way. Solvang and the nearby village of Los Olivos were pretty, in the way that many small American settlements don't seem to be, tending to be functional, think of the film images particularly of small western American towns.

Mary and I had an easy day here riding the pretty Ballard Canyon road.

I should note that the scenery in California is on a grand scale and Ballard Canyon apart, I would say is not beautiful in the way British scenery is.

The next day we undertook the hardest ride of the whole twelve days. This involved slightly over 4,000 feet of fairly steep ascent (think the gradient of the Mam Nick road from Edale), to the summit of Mount Figueroa and back down again. Around 45 miles all told. On this day it was cloudy and unlike the rest of our time in California, cold, distinctly so.

On leaving Solvang we rode back to Santa Barbara. This was to be over the intervening mountains, but a road bridge was undergoing some work and we could not get through, so our only choice was to ride down Highway 101. That is the main West Coast Highway! Well actually, we rode down the hard shoulder, which doubles as a cycleway until you reach Santa Barbara. This was not quite as bad as it might seem and looking at the mountains we should have ridden over, it was clear that had we gone that way we would have got very wet

and cold. As it was everyday, Mount Figueroa apart, was warm and sunny.

We had a last couple of warm sunny days, in and around Santa Barbara and then it was back to gloomy old England, but with some great memories of our days in the sun.

Some last words about cycling in California. Surprisingly for a nation probably more in love with motor vehicles than we are in the UK the standard of driving was very good.

Moreover Californian drivers (perhaps American drivers per se), are extremely considerate of other road users and that especially includes cyclists! In towns there are many junctions which have no automatic right of way and unlike in Britain where "might is right" is the predominant attitude, Californian drivers will wait and wave you on, if you are at the junction first. Perhaps it is the compensation culture in the US which makes drivers more careful to avoid being sued, or maybe they are just nice people who love cyclists. Either way as a UK Cyclist one can only dream.

Steve Bright

# EVENTS

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## Bike Week 15th - 23rd June 2013

**Sunday June 16th, 1.00 pm: Campaign ride** leaving from Tapton Lock at 1.00 pm, out through Brimington and Inkersall, along the Trans Pennine Trail then returning along the canal path from Staveley. Refreshment stop at the Hollingwood Hub on the way back.

**Wednesday June 19th, 6.30 pm: Spire Cycling Club Freewheel.** Cycling's easiest challenge! Suitable for all ages and abilities. See opposite page for more details  
*[www.chesterfieldspirecyclingclub.co.uk/events.html](http://www.chesterfieldspirecyclingclub.co.uk/events.html)*

**Friday June 21st, 7 pm: Cycle Campaign Pea & Pie Supper** at the Crispin Inn on Ashgate Road. Meat pie, chips, peas and gravy with vegetarian alternative available. £5.00 per head - please book a place with the Secretary, Alastair Meikle, and state your preference for meat or vegetarian by 16th June. Payment in advance would be appreciated - Alastair will be available at the TPT ride on 16th to take bookings and payment in person.

**Saturday/Sunday June 29th/30th, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm** We will be holding Campaign stall at the Chesterfield Canal Festival, Staveley Town Basin. Volunteers needed.  
*[www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk)*

### **POLICY & FINANCE**

**Chair:** Joe Clark

**Vice Chair:** Chris Allen

**Secretary:** Alastair Meikle, 01246 520820  
[secretary@chesterfielddcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chesterfielddcc.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Chris Allen

**Committee Member:** Barry Kay,  
01246 555943

### **MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY**

**Membership:** Pam Kay, 01246 555943

**Website:** Robert Kirby  
[webmaster@chesterfielddcc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@chesterfielddcc.org.uk)

**Newsletter:** Nicola Peck  
[newsletter@chesterfielddcc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@chesterfielddcc.org.uk)

**Publicity:** Vacant - volunteers please contact the Secretary

**Sunday July 14th, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm** We will be holding a Campaign stall at the Inkerman Buzz, Inkerman Park, off Ashgate Road. Volunteers needed. [www.friendsoftheinkerman.org](http://www.friendsoftheinkerman.org)

**Saturday September 7th to Sunday September 15th: Peak District Cycling Festival.** Over 60 cycle rides and activities on offer through the week, from gentle routes to exhilarating off-road biking. With rides from 6k to 160k, workshops, films, fun days, food, drink and festivities to enjoy. [www.visitpeakdistrict.com/pdcf](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com/pdcf)

**Saturday October 5th to Sunday October 13th: Chatsworth Road Festival.** Last year's festival featured a very well attended 'Cycle in Style' ride. There are plans to hold another one this year but details are still to be finalised. More next issue.

## **BIKE WEEK FREEWHEEL CHALLENGE**

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During Bike Week, the Chesterfield Spire Cycle Club will be holding a Freewheel Competition.

Suitable for all abilities, this is probably cycling's easiest challenge! All you have to do is freewheel down a slope and see how far you can get without pedalling. No skill is required other than being able to keep your balance. The competition is free to enter and there will be small prizes for the winners.

Please ensure that you bring a roadworthy bike, although there is usually someone on hand who will be able to help out with simple problems like puncture

repairs if you're unable to do this yourself.

The venue is the Shillito Woods Car Park on Fox Lane, not far from the old Ramsley Reservoir; OS Landranger map 119, Grid Reference: 294749. The start time is 6.30 pm on Wednesday 19th June and the event will finish when everyone has had the opportunity to have a run or two, probably no later than 8.00 pm.

There are plans to follow the Competition with a pub visit – venue to be decided, but it will be somewhere on the way back to Chesterfield.

# GET INVOLVED!

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**Campaign Meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm at the Town Hall in Chesterfield. The next meetings are on 12th Jun, 9th Jul, 13th Aug and 10th Sep.

**Greendrinks** is an informal gathering of 'green' minded people and takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from 7.00pm at various venues - see [www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Chesterfield](http://www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Chesterfield).

**Visit the forum** on our website at [www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk](http://www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk) to contribute your ideas and opinions.

**To report road faults**, telephone Derbyshire County Council on 08456 058 058.

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## 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 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 or P.O., payable to "Chesterfield Cycle Campaign" to: CCC Membership Secretary, 9 Ashgate Avenue, Chesterfield, S40 1JB.

NB. These details will be stored on computer.