



CycleReading

WORKING FOR A CYCLE FRIENDLY READING

www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk

Summer 2010 No. 109

Bike Thefts Fall at Railway Station

Cycle thefts at Reading Railway Station have dropped significantly in the last year according to British Transport Police (BTP).

Cycle thefts in the year April 2009 to March 2010 are reported to be 41% lower than the previous year, with 69 cycles stolen compared to 116.

The figures only represent the numbers that are reported to the BTP, but the downward trend is welcome news for Reading's cycle commuters.

Thames Valley Police have told us that engraving your postcode and house number on your bike gives you the best chance of recovering it if it is stolen.



Contents

- 1 Bike Thefts Fall at Railway Station
- 2 Council News
- 3 Other Cycle News
- 4 Editor's Letter
- 6 Cycle Census
- 7 Bikes 'n' Bits
- 8 Contact Us
Campaign Diary

Council News



Reading Borough Council (RBC)



New Lead Councillor for Transport

Now that RBC has changed from Labour to Conservative/ Liberal control, Councillor

Cllr Richard Willis

Richard Willis (Conservative) replaces Tong Page as Lead Councillor for Transport. As Shadow Lead Councillor for Transport, Richard has attended the Cycle Liaison Group meetings for

the last two years, so he is well known to the Reading Cycle Campaign representatives. We wish Richard well in his new post.

New Surfacing for Coley Bike Routes

It's been a long wait but the sealed surfacing along the River Kennet just south of the IDR and over the river from Elgar Road has finally been installed.

This track was prone to getting very muddy and the much needed surfacing works have been in the pipeline for some time. Reading Cycle Campaign members tried out the route during Bike Week for our evening curry ride to Theale.

RBC is also planning to surface part of the muddy track that links Wensley Road to Farm Lane in Calcot using funding from Sustrans. This track forms

part of Reading Cycle Route R6. Unfortunately funding to pave the whole of this track is not currently available.

A Reading Cyclist Hits Wokingham

After 17 years of wheeling a groove between West Reading and Suttons Business Park (by the A329 roundabout), an office relocation to Winnersh Triangle has forced a change in my daily commute. The extra 6 miles a day will help stem the onset of middle age spread (at least that's what I am telling myself).

After a number of years of haranguing Reading's Transport officers on behalf of RCC, my new commute has also opened my eyes to the vagaries of cycling on Wokingham Borough Council's roads, including the infamous Wokingham Road. The shared-use cycling facilities on Wokingham Road



We have been helping accident victims for well over 30 years and have developed a National reputation for our work in this field.

Specialising in a wide range of injury work for both adults and children, the firm has membership of all the relevant specialist panels including those of the Law Society, Headway and the Spinal Injuries Association and is closely involved with the Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust (BHIT) based in Reading.

We have our own brain injury support group, an in-house case manager and the experience and commitment to ensure that you and your loved ones get the result and support that you need.

Based in Reading, we represent clients nationally and operate a guaranteed no win no fee no deductions policy.

Once again my sincere thanks for your kind assistance and courtesy in dealing with this claim and bringing it to a successful conclusion.

Jean Crown, Kent



We hope it never happens to you, but if you do have an accident call

Kim Smerdon or Julia Appleton
 Freephone 0800 884 0719 email advice@claims-personalinjury.com
www.boyesturnerclaims.com

Council News

have been ridiculed in this newsletter before - but that's no reason not to ridicule them again.

Few cyclists would want to use the undulating, rubbish strewn Wokingham Road cycle path (or footpath as it is more generally known) - crossing as it does a hundred driveways and side roads. Wokingham Road is a wide, single-lane carriageway highway that should be adequate for motor vehicles and cyclists; unfortunately drivers are encouraged to keep close to the kerb by the generous swathe of hatching that runs down the centre of the road.

Heading east from the Three Tuns crossroads takes you downhill along the Woky Road to the mega-roundabout at Winnersh Triangle. Being an experienced cyclist I attempted to

negotiate this roundabout on the carriageway for the first week of commuting, but after a few close-shave lane changes I now meekly use the pedestrian crossings. And Wokingham certainly doesn't do things by halves when it comes to pedestrian crossings. Negotiating the roundabout means a traverse of either four or six (depending on which route you take) pedestrian crossings. These are located at each set of traffic lights, though they have a particular reluctance to show a green crossing signal, even when the traffic lights are red, so it's still a bit of gamble of guessing whether the motor vehicles are ready for the off.

I can take all this with equanimity; after all, the Wokingham Road cycle

paths were designed in an age when engineers and planners did not know better. But then I reach my destination - the new IQ business park. Here I no longer feel marginalised as a cyclist. Here the new road layout treats both pedestrians and cyclists with equal contempt when it comes to providing a safe and convenient route to the office. The message seems clear: come in your metal box, earn your taxes, and go home in your metal box.

If there are any Wokingham councillors, transport planners or traffic engineers reading this - there are experienced cyclists who are willing to help. Please get in touch.

Keith Elliott
RBC Campaigner

Other Cycle News

London Cycle Hire Scheme

The Transport for London cycle hire scheme is now up and running, although early teething problems meant that some cyclists who had never got the bike out of the docking point were told they'd been cycling for 11 hours! However, TfL have by now corrected the problems (and waived all charges). At the moment you can only join the scheme by becoming a member, which costs £1 for a day, £5 for a week and £45 for a year. You'll also need to spend £3 on a special key to use in the docking station, but with journeys up to 30 minutes costing nothing, this may be a good option if you have to make regular quick hops in the capital. Casual use for the occasional visitor should be available soon. Watch out that you get the bike back though, as the cost rises steeply from £1 for an hour, to £4 for an hour and half, and if you accidentally keep the bike over 24 hours you could face a fee of £150

(this is assuming the bikes haven't all been stolen or wrecked before you get them). Such is TfL's confidence in the scheme's success that they've also launched a range of bespoke cycle clothing.

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/cycling/14808.aspx>

London's Other Cycle Hire Scheme

If Boris's cycle revolution doesn't work for you an alternative service called Byke might be a better option. The Byke service allows ordinary cycle owners to rent out their bikes while they're not using them. Simply log onto byke.mobi to hire a bike for just £3.50 per day, with a deposit of up to £100 pounds depending on the kind of bike you're hiring. The website will tell you when and where you can collect the bike and will split the proceeds with its owner once the bike is returned. The scheme has one great advantage that it covers the whole of London, rather than just zone 1.

<http://www.bikeradar.com/news/article/alternative-bike-hire-scheme-launched-in-london-27246>

Police Recover Stolen and Auctioned Bike

A resident of Charlton Kings was left furious, after police seized a bike from his front garden, leaving only the basket for the owner to get about on! The ex-Royal Mail bike had been bought legitimately from an auction organised by the police to get rid of recovered stolen goods that were not claimed by the original owners. However, a concerned resident noticed the bike and reported it to police, who confiscated the bike from the front garden, leaving only the basket (presumably as this is not a standard fitting on Royal Mail cycles). The bicycle in question is still with the police while their investigations continue.

<http://www.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk/news/Seized-bike-came-police-auction/article-2478642-detail/article.html>

Other Cycle News

Editor's Letter

DfT Survey Shows More Affluent Are Cycling

The National Travel Survey has found that a national take-up on cycling has been led by higher earners, and as the CTC have been quick to point out this is particularly surprising given the economic slowdown. Expenditure on cars in the last 3 years is down by 13%, while spending on bikes is up by 25%. The trend is concentrated in the South, where 8% of central London workers and 4% of those in the south east and south west cycle to work. The survey regards an 'average cyclist' as one who uses a bike for a quarter of all journeys, with this average cyclist doing 6 journeys a week totalling 17 miles and taking just over 2 hours, whereas in 1995 they were doing just 13 miles in 5 trips. Cycling still only represents 2% of all trips in the survey and only 1% of the total distance travelled; however, as there are a smaller proportion of cyclists surveyed this statistic is difficult to interpret. According to another report published by the Department for Transport last month cycling injuries were up in 2009; however deaths fell by 10%.

<http://www.bikeradar.com/news/article/cycling-on-the-up-in-uk-27228>

Updating our Records

If any of your details have changed, please let us know.

For example, people sometimes forget to inform relevant organisations when they change or get a new e-mail address.

Our newsletters are delivered to the street address we were last told about. Use this form to advise us of any changed details:

Old Name: _____

Revised Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Old E-mail: _____

New E-mail: _____

Send this completed form to:

Membership Secretary, 26 Barrington Way, Reading RG1 6EG

Data Protection Act: RCC keeps membership records on computer. This information is not disclosed to third parties.

Hello RCC members,

Our Chairman is taking a well earned break from the regular letter, so you get me instead!

One of the things that always amazes me is how difficult non-cyclists seem to think it must be to use a bicycle. Whenever I hear someone grumbling about the traffic, or apologising after it took half an hour to find a parking space or complaining at how much tax /insurance/petrol cost, I can never help asking "Why don't you get a bike?" I always seem to get the same answers: "It would take too long," (didn't you just say you were late?), "I couldn't carry the shopping," (have these people never heard of panniers?), "There's nowhere to change at work," (have you asked? And anyway, you don't have to wear lycra to get on a bike you know!). Obviously when you have to go a very long way or carry a large amount of stuff, a car is often more appropriate.

But somehow these never seem to be the journeys people are moaning about; it always seems to be the 'short' commute, the 'nip' to the supermarket or the 'popping' into town for a coffee that are causing all the aggravation. Reading Borough Council spends huge amounts on roads



working for cycling

Reading Cyclists' Touring Club presents

Local bike rides for all

We organise rides to suit all tastes every Tuesday and Sunday and on summer Wednesday evenings. Just turn up!

For more details call

0118 986 2763

or www.readingctc.co.uk

ACTION BIKES

THE BIGGEST BIKE DEALER IN THE UK

• Massive choice of bikes & accessories in stock • Fully equipped workshops for your urgent top quality repairs • Order by phone • We deliver

• GIANT • SCOTT • SARACEN • TP • MONGOOSE • FALCON/CLAUDBUTLER

15 WEST STREET
READING
BERKS

0118 951 1345

SAME DAY BIKE REPAIRS
SPARES • ACCESSORIES

Editor's Letter



and car parks and yet the trip into town that should be so simple can still be so irritating. How little, by comparison, would it cost to sort out some direct cycle routes on the arterial roads, or put some more cycle racks and lockers in the town centre? I think the bike as the default vehicle for shorter journeys is increasing: I see more people cycling to school and work than I did a few years ago and I think trailers and 'tag-alongs' are a more common sight too. But they still seem to be the exception rather than the rule. The automatic, obvious, default vehicle for so many people

still seems to be the car and I just can't see why it has become so ubiquitous.

But I might be the wrong person to be writing about this. I might not be qualified because I don't drive, and I never have. I've never felt the need to. This also tends to surprise people, "Really? Well I definitely need a car," (hold on, I thought you said it was short commute, a pop to town, just nipping to the shops...) However, the other day I did find myself wondering why I had been such a stuck up 17 year old and hadn't just taken the driving lessons like everyone else. When I'm not crossing 't's and dotting 'i's for RCC I also play double-bass in a local group. Trust me, when you're walking through town, carrying a double bass and the fifth person shouts "That's a ruddy big guitar!" you start to think that trundling through a traffic jam in your own tin box might be quite a nice idea. We recently had a gig in Bracknell and there was the inevitable "How do we get the bass there?" conversation. Luckily our drummer has a nice, big CO₂ belching estate car. As I said, sometimes a car just seems better, but I must admit to feeling a little disappointed. But sometimes you just have to accept things, I mean, you obviously can't

carry a double-bass on a bicycle can you...? Another recent gig was at the Rising Sun Arts Centre in Silver Street. It was part of a one day festival which took place both indoors and in the back yard and garden. In the yard is a rather incredible - er - well, it has four wheels so I suppose it's a quadricycle. You may have seen it, it was first built for Reading Carnival. It's basically a huge model of the top of the London office building known as the Gherkin, except that it has shoals of mechanical fish inside it that rotate as it's cycled along. It takes three people to ride and was built out of old left over pieces of cycles and scrap metal, by people giving up their own time and energy. I wonder how many of the people involved realised they could do something like that before they did it? I suppose it's very easy to think something is difficult if it's not the sort of thing you see or do all the time. But that doesn't make it impossible. A double-bass trailer would be fairly difficult, (particularly as it would have to protect the bass from the knocks and vibrations or our lumpy cycle paths and roads), but if you do see a cyclist towing a double-bass, I'll let you off for shouting "That's a flipping big guitar!"

Toby Gibbons, *Editor*

awcycles

Reading's Performance Cycle Centre

bikes parts clothing accessories

Friendly, expert staff to cater for every type of rider - from a toddlers first trike to a pro-level custom built race machine

GIANT

ENDURA

SHIMANO

CATEYE

Bianchi

ALTURA

ASSOS

ridgeback

COLNAGO

DE ROSA

EXPOSURE LIGHTS

Wilier

SRAM

TREK

0118 946 3050 awcycles.co.uk

110 Henley Road, Caversham, RG4 6DH

Reading Cycle Campaign

offer on breakdown cover

Call 0800 212 810
Quoting ref: S576

Established 10 years ago as an alternative to the AA and RAC, the ETA offers a wide range of services to its members at extremely competitive prices, including a unique cycle rescue service. The ETA actively campaigns for a sustainable transport system for Britain.

The motoring organisation that won't cost the earth

www.eta.co.uk

The ETA has moved to new offices:
68 High Street, Weybridge KT 13 8RS
Tel 01932 828 882 Fax 01932 829 015 Email eta@eta.co.uk

Cycle Census

Another beautiful morning greeted the volunteers of the 2010 Cycle Census count. All junctions were counted and returned in good time despite Royal Mail delaying the return mail since the envelopes were slightly over-sized! Numbers were up slightly from last year with 4654 cyclists counted over the 27 junctions in and around Reading, compared to 4555 last year. The percentage of helmets being worn rose from 47% to 52%.

The plot below shows the totals from 20 junctions over the past ten years including percentage wearing helmets. Note the two cloudy census days in 2002 and 2005 which did not appear to greatly reduce cycle numbers.

The busiest junctions, with counts above 200, were those at Caversham and Reading Bridges, Forbury Roundabout, the junctions of Watlington Street with

both Queens and Kings Roads, Three Tuns, and the Bath Road junction with Southcote Lane.

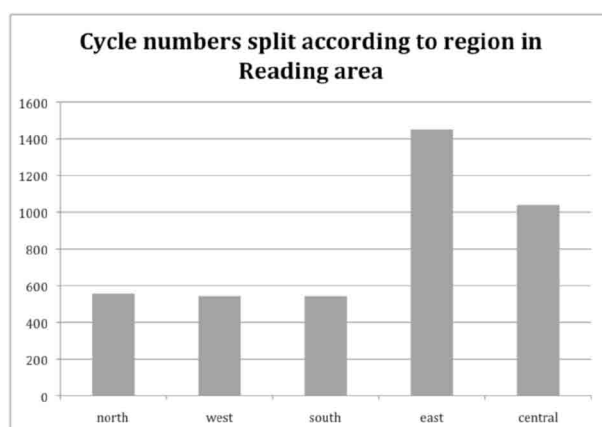
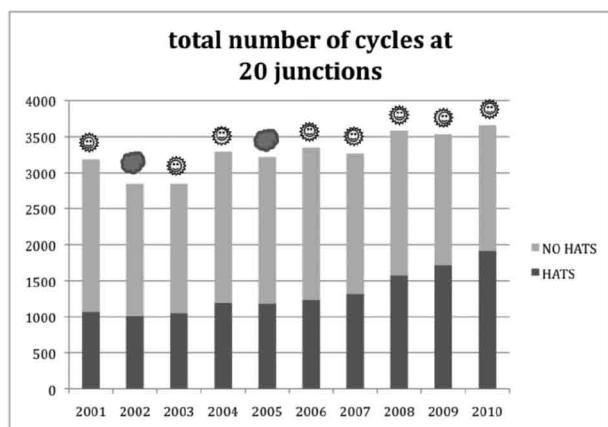
With the junctions divided into five broad regions (North, South, East, West and Central), the most counts were made in the eastern part of Reading, with almost three times as many as in each of the North, South, and West areas. Some of this high eastern count though can be attributed to double and triple counting of cyclists, eg a cyclist travelling all the way down Wokingham Road could pass three volunteers before reaching the Town Centre.

The true number of individual cyclists during the 7:30 - 9:00am window is therefore much less than the 4654 counts mentioned above. Estimating this number would be rather difficult (and maybe unnecessary) from the data

collected since marking each cyclist somehow with paint (eg from a paintball gun) to avoid multiple counting would not be good practice. If actual cyclist numbers are of interest, another more sensible method could be to position volunteers at popular cyclist destinations such as the Railway Station, Reading University entrances, schools (if a school day), and big businesses such as Thames Water, Council Offices, Supermarkets etc.

An attempt at a rough estimate could be made by considering cyclists as town-bound or not and trying to reduce multiple counts at junctions closer to town. See a later newsletter maybe!

On behalf of the cyclists of Reading the committee would like to thank Bruce Main for organising and collating the census and writing the above report.



**Need your bike repaired?
Don't have time or the
tools to do it yourself?**

Wheel building and truing a speciality.

Contact Bob Bristow on

0118 958 2056

for cycle repairs at a very reasonable price.



**PHILIP
CHAPPLE**

MICPP



**REMEDIAL
AND
SPORTS MASSAGE**

0118 926 3620

philip@pchapple64.freemove.co.uk

www.earley-therapy.co.uk

Bikes 'n' Bits

For Sale: Scott USA Comp Racing Mountain Bike (2001), 27 Speed, 17" Frame Biaxial Ultralite STAGE 1 aluminium 7500 Alloy Double Butted (Disc ready), XT Front Derailleur, XT Rear Derailleur, Shimano LX V-Brakes, Shimano LX Crankset, ZAC 19 rims LX Hubs, RockShox Judy SL forks, mountain bike - functions fine but old, £180. Contact: Leon 0770 379 7725

Bike Spares and Parts: New Blackburn Expedition 1 Rear Rack-£10; One size fits all 'solid construction, airforce aluminium build' For use touring and off road cycling 'New Monaco Slick Mountainbike Tyres' 26 x 1.75 £15 pair; Tortec Ultralite Rear Rack £10; Crud Catcher & RaceGuard Mountain Bike Mudguards Black £10; Kona Mountain Bike Seatpost, 27.2 diameter x 300mm long £10; Adjustable Alloy Bicycle Seatpost 30.4 x 400mm Black £10; WTB Saddle £10; Trek-Saddle £10; Selle Royal Moody Ladies' Saddle £10;

Marin Handlebars Alloy 25.4 mm clamp diameter £5; Deore 9 Speed Rear Mech £5; Deore Front Mech £5; Offroad pedals £5; Contact Leon Spence 0770 379 7725; Leon.spence@gmail.com

For Sale: Off-Road Mountain Bike Tyres absolutely and completely good condition, but not brand new: 1 x Continental Vertical (26 x 2.3), 2 x 'Schwalbe' Mountaineer II Puncture Protection Tyre (26 x 1.9), £7 each. Contact: Leon 07703 797725

Tyres Wanted: Cheap pair of 650 x 20 or 23 (571) racing tyres in good condition. Not easy to find or afford these days! Email: dry@tesco.net

For Sale/Hire: 2 hard cycle cases (supplied by Edinburgh cycles) takes full size bike. Went to Australia and back! £75 each or £100 the pair. Other-wise willing to hire out at £50 first week and subsequent weeks at £30 Contact Angela on 0118 9426802 (Calcot)

CTC Affiliated Membership Any member of RCC can apply for CTC affiliated membership. • 3rd party insurance cover of £5,000,000 anywhere in the world except USA and Canada • a CTC membership card and CTC Member benefits handbook offering discounts and benefits • CTC email newsletter *Newsnet* • *This protection is valid only for fully paid-up members of RCC.*

The TRADITIONAL RESTORATION COMPANY Ltd

*Specialists in Restoration
of Fine
Antique Furniture*

Audrey Thompson

The Coach House
Dorney Court
Dorney
Windsor
Berkshire SL4 6QP
Tel: 01628 660708 (office)
0118 986 2444 (home)



YES, I WANT TO JOIN RCC!

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (please delete)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

- ☐ I would like details of how I can help with Campaign activities
☐ I am a member of the Cyclists' Touring Club

Signed

Date

How did you hear about the Campaign?

- ☐ Individual membership (annual) £3
☐ Joint membership (annual) £5
 (Two or more living at the same address)
 No. of people under joint membership.....
☐ Unwaged/unior membership (annual) £1
☐ Life membership £35
☐ I would like to make future payments by standing order. Please send me details.

I enclose a cheque for £..... covering my membership and a donation* of £.....
 *An additional donation to help fund our activities would be very much appreciated

Please make cheques payable to **Reading Cycle Campaign** and send together with the completed form to: **Membership Secretary, Reading Cycle Campaign, 26 Barrington Way, Reading RG1 6EG**

Data Protection Act: Reading Cycle Campaign keeps membership records on computer. This information is not disclosed to third parties.

Our Mission

- To campaign for better facilities for cyclists in Reading, in particular a network of safe cycleways linking residential, industrial and commercial areas, and giving access to the town centre.
- To work with Sustrans, the Cyclists' Touring Club (both locally and nationally) and others interested in promoting cycling and the well-being of cyclists.
- To identify the needs of cyclists in Reading, for example the location of safe and secure parking, and to campaign for their provision.
- To work with and advise local authorities and, where necessary, criticise and highlight their shortcomings.



CycleReading Advertising

For 1/6 page display advert (87.5mm x 80mm)
RCC members £6 • Non-members £12
Bikes 'n' Bits (text only) free to RCC members
Contact the Editor (details below)



Contact Us

24 Curzon Street, Reading RG30 1DB

www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk

0845 330 2543

www.myspace.com/readingcyclecampaign

Chairman	Adrian Lawson - 07540 224003 chair@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Secretary	Linda Edwards - 0118 959 0319 secretary@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Treasurer	Martin Cook treasurer@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Ron Knowles - 0118 939 4044 membership@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Publicity Coordinator	Richard Pearson publicity@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Events Coordinator	Jeanette Jeans events@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Reading Campaigner	Keith Elliott - 0118 958 5520 rbc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Wokingham Campaigner	Dougal Munro wdc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
West Berks Campaigner	vacant wbc@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Tobias Gibbons newsletter@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Newsletter Designer	Alice Elliott - 0118 958 5520 designer@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Website Manager	John Seto webmaster@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk
Newsletter Distribution	Ian Humphrey - 0118 948 1172

Next newsletter copy date: 3 November 2010

risc world shop

- Pottery •
- Jewellery & beads •
- Unusual gifts & ornaments •
- Didgeridoos, drums & other instruments •
- Environmentally friendly & organic products •
- World music, CDs & cassettes •
- Books & teaching resources •
- Baygen clockwork radios •
- Furniture •

35-39 London Street, Reading

& refresh yourself at the Global Café

- fairtrade teas & coffees • organic wines & beers •
- selection of international beers • tasty food •

Open Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm

Tel: 0118 958 6692 Fax: 0118 959 4357

Email: risc@risc.org.uk Website: www.risc.org.uk

Published by Reading Cycle Campaign, 24 Curzon Street, Reading RG30 1DB; Tel: 0845 330 2543
Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the Campaign.

Council Contacts

Please let the relevant campaign officer know of anything you've reported.

Reading Borough Council

General cycling queries: 0118 939 0900 x 4881; parking: parkingservices@reading.gov.uk; traffic lights: 0118 939 0611; potholes 0800 626540

Wokingham Borough Council

0118 974 6302

West Berkshire Council

01635 519080 or www.westberks.org.uk

Windsor and Maidenhead

www.rbwm.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire

01235 531331 or southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk

PURCO PRINT

Creating a Sharper Image

Special Offers:

Business cards on 30gram card
250 1 Colour £30.00 500 1 Colour £34.00
250 2 Colour £52.00 500 2 Colour £58.00
1000 1 Colour £100.00 500 1 Colour £54.00 1000 1 Colour £45.00
250 2 Colour £35.00 500 2 Colour £40.00 1000 2 Colour £29.00
and more from 2000 to 10,000

Full Colour A5 leaflets
printed on 100gsm gloss or matt 1 sided
1000 £10.00 5000 £18.00 10,000 £28.00

Full colour A4 leaflets
printed on 100gsm gloss or matt 2 sided
1000 £16.00 5000 £28.00 10,000 £40.00 20,000 £55.00
from 10,000

Printers of the R.C.C. Newsletter
www.purcprint.co.uk

Es Street, Reading Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 3TE
Tel: 0118 9481145 Fax: 0118 9482959
Email: sales@purcprint.co.uk Web: www.purcprint.co.uk

Campaign Diary

Help Out at the Farmers' Market

If you'd like to volunteer for the RCC stand please contact our Events Coordinator Jeanette Jeans (see above). The Farmers' Market is at Great Knollys Street on the first Saturday of each month from 8.45-11.30am:

**Saturday 4 September • Saturday 2 October
Saturday 6 November • Saturday 4 December**

Want to get more involved and meet more cyclists?

If you can spare an hour or two why not help us out with our local campaigning? Contact the Events Coordinator and she'll let you know when there are opportunities to help out. It's great fun and we won't commit you to anything.

Broad Street: Saturday 25 September

You can now find RCC on facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/ReadingCycleCampaign>
and Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ReadingCycle>

The newsletter is now available electronically, so if you'd prefer to go paperless contact the newsletter editor at newsletter@readingcyclecampaign.org.uk