

DERBY TO CLOUD QUARRY

By *LES SIMS*

Start from Exeter Bridge or any point on NCN R6 between Alvaston Park and Swarkestone Lock,



and follow R6 along the towpath of the Trent & Mersey Canal turning right after a mile or so, to gain the old railway route crossing the River Trent on the viaduct.

Keep on R6 through King's Newton, Melbourne, and Tonge, and over the road bridge crossing the A42 trunk road to reach the Cloud Trail, which runs adjacent to Cloud Quarry. Continue up the hill, until you come to a couple of cast iron pterodactyls on the right. Opposite is a good view of Cloud Quarry, probably the biggest hole in the ground that you have ever seen, so don't stand too near the edge, especially if it is windy. The quarry produces thousands of tons of limestone per year.

Go back to the A42 bridge and carry straight on into Breedon village, where there is an excellent cafe at the garden centre. Returning from there, turn left

before the circular war memorial, climbing uphill and taking a right fork to visit Breedon Church, high on the summit, and which can be seen for miles around. The view from here is quite spectacular, looking over East Midlands Airport and Charnwood Forest. Return to the fork and turn right downhill and then left on the road, to pass through Wilson, where on the far side of the village is a track on the right, just opposite the South Derbyshire sign, which leads downhill, where you re-join NCN R6 and return to Derby.

CYCLING INDUSTRY GIVES ECONOMY 3BILLION BOOST

Cycling generates nearly 3billion a year for the UK economy, a report by the London School of Economics has found. In this cash crunch era and with funding cuts in all sectors it appears that supporting cycling is like serving the country by standing at the front line of the war!

The figure takes into account factors such as bicycle manufacturing, retail and cycle-related employment. The report says £51million was raised for UK manufacturers from the 3.7 million cycles sold in 2010 - a rise of 28% on the number of cycles sold in 2009. More than a million people also started cycling last year, bringing the total number of cyclists to 13 million. Last year more than £1.5billion was spent on bikes and another £850million on accessories, with the LSE estimating that the cycling industry is now worth some £2.9billion a year. There are now 23,000 people working in cycling, contributing more than £600million to the

economy in wages and taxes. The report also says rising fuel costs, improved cycle networks, concern for the environment, and the pull of the Olympics are all possible factors for the increase in popularity for cycling.

It also says a 20% increase in cycling levels by 2015 could save millions of pounds in reduced congestion, pollution levels and NHS costs. The report says that regular cyclists take 7.4 sick days per year, compared with 8.7 sick days for non-cyclists, saving around £128million through reduced absenteeism, with projected savings of £2billion over the next 10 years. Dr Alexander Grous, of the LSE, who conducted the research, said: "The good news is that structural, economic, social and health factors seem finally to have created a true step-change in the UK's cycling scene." Stewart Kellett, of British Cycling which is the governing body of UK cycle sport, said: "This report is further evidence that when more people get involved in cycling there are measurable benefits to the individual, their family, their employer, the environment and the economy as whole." Overall, it is evident that cycling doesn't only improve the standard of living but also contributes to the country's economy and the world (for more information please follow <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14610857>).

DCG WEBSITE

www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

Please visit the DCG website for up to date information on the Group's activities. In particular, try the "Discuss" forum where you can see the latest updates on the various campaigns we're involved with as well as get information on forthcoming events. Your contribution (either on new events or comments on our approach to existing campaigns) is really welcomed. If you are on Facebook you are encouraged to join the Derby Cycling Group Facebook Group.

We would like to improve the DCG website appearance. Your inputs and suggestions are welcomed. Please let us know, any new sections

you would like to see in DCG website and which sections need improvement and in what way. Your inputs are very valuable to us. Thanks in advance for taking time out of your busy schedule and contributing for our cycling group. Please send your suggestions to webmaster@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

THE BIKE SHOW 2011

By *LES SIMS*

The Bike Show has previously been held in London, but for 2011 moved to the NEC, so it was



worth a visit to see where the future lies for us cyclists. Most of the big names were in attendance but not, surprisingly, Brompton, Cateye, Birdy or Dahon.

There were lots of innovative designs, many using materials other than the traditional steel and aluminum, and some clever design ideas, particularly in folding bikes.

This is one of the futuristic bikes which caught my eye. It is a folding bike with full size wheels, stub axles, three spoke wheels, single leg forks and rear frame, and cable operated disc brakes. The two speed gear is operated by the riders heels pushing buttons (left or right) built into the bottom bracket spindle. The drive is by way of a fully enclosed chain with the gear box built into the bottom bracket. Mudguards can be fitted without compromise to the folding. The frame is aluminum

and it folds very neatly such that it can be trundled along in the folded state. Its weighs 12kg, so is no lightweight, but since the machine can be trundled, weight is less important.

It is not cheap at £1600, but mass production would no doubt bring the price down significantly.

It can be neatly folded. The seat can be lowered of course, but makes a useful handle for trundling the bike

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE

TONY ROELICH - CAMPAIGNS

CO-ORDINATOR

- **How long have you been campaigns coordinator for?**

I have been a member of DCG for about 15years, actively campaigning for around five years and campaigns co-ordinator since 2008.

- **What have you achieved?**

My greatest satisfaction to date is seeing the quality of the cycle routes along the new inner ring road and knowing that DCG members past and present are responsible for these. Past members set the original requirements, and current members including myself monitored the progress of the plans and commented on every fine detail where we saw issues or improvements. However we do not build these things, so we rely on other people, from engineers to politicians, actually listening to us and reacting to what we say. Thankfully, when Connecting Derby was conceived. designed and built there was a very good listening team who took the challenge of building really good routes for cyclists very seriously. I plan to use these routes and this experience as examples and benchmarks when talking to other project teams in the future.

- **Where are your favourite bike rides?**

When I moved to Derby, my wife and I chose to live in Mickleover because of the huge network of quiet lanes which lies adjacent to it, and I like riding along these very much (although don't do so as much as I would have liked). More recently the Mickleover Greenway has allowed us to ride locally with young children in a beautiful and safe environment. In 1984 my wife and I rode round Scotland from Glasgow up the west and north coasts and back down to near Wick, it was our longest cycle tour and a fantastic holiday.

- **What do you do outside Derby Cycling Group and work?**

Family things take up most of my other time, from taxiing to gardening and household jobs. I also spend a fair time ferrying my youngest son to rugby training and matches; it is an interest that we share.

A NEW BARRIER

At Shelton Lock a new school is being built, and an access road has been constructed crossing



the nearby cycle path. The photograph was taken on NCN Route 6 between Alvaston and Shelton Lock, looking towards Derby, with the school to the right and Jubilee Road to the left. There is a man controlling the gate, which prohibits the passage of

pedestrians and cycles when there is motor traffic on the access road. The gate is left open outside working hours. Completion of the school is due in September 2012 and both the gate and the access road will then be removed.

(Note: If you have any similar useful information for the public please send it to us)

FUN TIME

My granny started cycling at 97 years old. She has been doing ten miles per day every day ever since - and now we don't know where the heck she is!

FUNNY ACT

Stressed with too much work, a stress buster for you from DCG.



I am gone mad, why did he lock the cycle?

(Note: If you find any such funny incidents in your daily commute please send them to us)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

A gentle reminder to any of our members due to renew this year and who haven't yet got around to it. Please send in your renewal forms as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the renewal letter then you can download a membership form from the website http://www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk/documents/DCG_membership.pdf. If you have any questions about your membership then please email to membership@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk. Please note that the membership fee

for 1 year: Individual - £2 & Family - £3 and
for 3 years: Individual - £4 & Family - £6.

Any companies and community groups are welcomed.

EDITOR'S NOTE

By VIJAYA RAMISETTI

Dear DCG members,

Please feel free to express your opinions or suggestions on any of the article. If you want to convey any information to the Derby City Council on any of the issues you are facing while cycling then please drop us an e-mail, if it is worth a point to raise then we will shout for you. Your feedback is highly appreciated. If you would like to send us any article which you feel good to know and related to cycling then please send it to articles@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk.

The DCG committee is looking for new committee members, who are interested to get involved with the group's activities, to join the group or as a general "without portfolio" member. There are several new positions available to the interested people. As a first step you are welcome to attend the monthly meetings at the Brunswick PH (first Tuesdays of the month, 7:30pm, upstairs).

Thanks

Vijaya Ramiseti