



Greenway Edition

SIGNPOSTS

News and views from Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group

Issue 13

GAME CHANGER



On a joyful afternoon, no fewer than 398 riders took to the streets of Haddenham on our Family Bike Ride for the Greenway! Ages ranged from 3 to over 80, and it was great to see the youngest in particular enjoying the freedom of travelling under their own steam.

We were bowled over by the level of support, and will use it as a springboard to grow our campaign still further. People are clearly crying out for a safe route between Haddenham and Thame, not just for cyclists, but for walkers, wheelers and horse riders as well. There is strength in numbers. People power will not be ignored!

Alan Thawley, Chair,
Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group



MULTI-GENERATION

Mei, 6 years old, with Grandpa Robyn Thorogood, 83 years old. Robyn was on the first ride "trailblazing" for the Greenway twenty years ago. Still waiting for visible progress!

HADDENHAM-THAME GREENWAY: 400 REASONS TO GET IT DONE!





One of our younger cyclists, Tobias, 3 years old



HaddSWAC is very grateful for financial support to produce SIGNPOSTS from Haddenham Village Fête, The Haddenham Beer Festivals Trust and Thame Cycles.

The Family Bike Ride was generously sponsored by Lucy Electric and The Cosmetic Centre.



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AN INCREDIBLY UNMET NEED

'Haddenham, did you say? Where's that?' 'Near Thame.' 'Ah yes, in Oxfordshire.' 'Yes, Thame is our town: not where we pay our council tax, but where we do most of our shopping, meet friends, get eyes, ears and maybe teeth fixed and seek other body care, see solicitors, estate agents and enjoy all the facilities you expect to find in *our town*'.

The traffic is not all one way. Remember Thame's cycling midwife Nurse Gubbins (in our [last issue](#)) on whom Haddenham mums once depended. As Haddenham has grown in recent years, it has its own growing selection of attractive shops, cafés, specialist retailers and services, many of which are used by people from Thame. And, above all, Haddenham has Thame's railway station.

Daily movements between the two settlements, which are clearly substantial and increasing, are almost entirely made by car. Bus services are not dependable enough for most people and the location of stops inconvenient. The settlements are only 3 miles apart and the distance could easily be covered in 12-15 minutes by bike (at least on load-free journeys in dry weather) but, despite the many cyclists in both communities, very few make this choice.

Why? Fear and parental anxiety. With the rise of motor traffic over the years, close passing by too many drivers, the perils of the Thame roundabout and the terrifying vulnerability of cyclists at the right turn towards Haddenham at Scotsgrove, the risks of cycling are unacceptable to all but the foolhardy or dedicated.

The Haddenham-Thame Greenway will bring many blessings. For the authorities, it will remove cars from the road, it will relieve pressure on parking, it will reduce carbon emissions and add to community resilience. For people, it will save cash, provide an opportunity for pleasurable exercise, improve health, conserve the NHS, and add to community satisfaction, particularly through the restoration of a natural link between the settlements which has been lost through 'modernisation'. What a smile that would bring to the face of Nurse Gubbins.