



Welcome...

to the first issue of Tracks this year. Whilst it may be f-f-freezing cold outside, it's great to hear that so many of you have been warming up your frozen feet by walking and cycling to school!



Inside this issue...

The Big Charge... riding bikes to charge a battery to power a stage at a festival... "it's not possible!" I hear you shout! Read our lead story and be amazed.

Do you fancy writing an article for Tracks like the kind folk on page 1 have? We'd love to hear about your views on anything to do with school travel so why not have a go? Who knows, you might end up on the front page of the next issue!

By popular request we've added a brand new Tracks quiz. Check out page 4 for more details.

Gasp in amazement at the mind-boggling bike stunts on page 3... don't try this at home kids!

Also...

- A bike fit for James Bond (prepare to be jealous!)
- All the info you need about your carbon footprint
- The usual appetizing array of websites, quotes and photos.

The Big Charge



Children from St Mary's Primary School celebrate their success

Pupils at St Mary's Primary School in Leigh-on-Sea and Heycroft Primary School in Southend should be feeling pretty proud of themselves. They were challenged to ride bikes connected to a battery which needed to be charged up in time to power a stage at the popular Village Green Festival. Phew...sounds exhausting! Here's their unusual story...



Earlier in the year ten of the Year 6s went to Chalkwell Park to do a project with the Bike It team. We had to ride still bikes to produce energy for an event. While we were there we did some time on the bikes and then we had our lunch.

After we had eaten we got back on our bikes and rode some more while Graham (our Bike It officer) took photos of us saying, "Bike It!" As we all got very thirsty the Bike It team gave us a free water bottle! Unfortunately it was then time to go back to school so we got all of our things and set off. Some of us were in the newspaper, and thanks to us, the event was a real bash. Thanks Graham!



Kimberley Wood - St Mary's Prittlewell C of E Primary School

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The Big Charge continued...

“ Earlier this year the Bike It crew went to Chalkwell Park for the Big Charge so they could power the big green stage at the Village Green Festival. When we arrived we got to ride special bikes that generated electricity in a big battery to create power for the stage. We also led an assembly telling the whole school about what we have been doing and what we will be doing in the future. ”

Miles Barwick – Heycroft Primary School



Even the adults got involved...!

“ The Bike It crew at Heycroft Primary School went to Chalkwell Park to help generate a battery to power the green stage. We got to ride a special type of bike that made electricity and had a brilliant time with other primary schools! We then did an assembly to let our school know what we got up to and how important it is to ride. ”

Kimberley Doshi – Heycroft Primary School



This tranquil scene hides a whirlwind of activity!

ACTION

Fancy seeing the pupils in action? Watch the video of this awesome event on YouTube:

<http://tinyurl.com/thebigcharge>

GUESS WHAT?



...a bike fit for James Bond has been invented!

It has a furious flame-thrower fitted in the handlebars to stop vehicles from getting too close. If a wily thief manages to get through the padlock and chain, the ejector seat makes sure that they don't get far. It even has ski blades for tackling tricky terrain! Pure genius.

Check out the Environmental Transport Agency website to watch a clip of the bike in action: <http://tinyurl.com/jamesbondbike>

ACTION

What crazy changes would you make to your bike?
Share your ideas by emailing julia.llewellyn@sustrans.org.uk or write to the usual address.

“ For most of us it is a simple question: what would you rather do, cycle to school and become healthy and fit or drive to school and pollute the world? ”

Alex Diamond, Whaley Bridge, High Peak

