

Cycling is a great way to keep fit whilst at the same time getting from A to B or exploring your local area.

The 19 **Cyclesolihull** routes in this series of leaflets will take you along most of the network of quiet lanes in and around Solihull, introducing you to some places you probably didn't even know existed!

The routes have been carefully chosen to avoid busier roads so are ideal for new cyclists and children learning to cycle on the road.

You can cycle the routes alone or with family and friends, or join one of the regular **Community Cycle Rides**.

Cycle^{to}Solihull Day

Sunday 13 September 2009



A chance to join other cyclists in Solihull town centre for a cycling afternoon. Join one of the special rides or simply head to the town centre on your bike. More details at: www.cycletosolihullday.org.uk

This is one of a series of ride leaflets devised by Solihull Cycling Steering Group which is helping Solihull Council to increase the amount of cycling in the area and consists of representatives from: Birmingham International Airport, Cyclists Touring Club, Pushbikes, Solihull Cycling Club, Solihull Care Trust, Solihull Residents Association and Sustrans.

Community Cycle Rides

Cyclesolihull offers regular opportunities to join with others to ride the routes in this series of leaflets. The rides are organised by volunteers, and during 2008 nearly 900 people (including over 100 children) took part in over 40 rides. To get involved, just turn up and ride!

Sunday Cycle Rides take place most Sundays* throughout the summer starting at 2 pm from one of 13 different starting points. "S" (short) routes are about 10 miles long, "M" (medium) routes are about 15 miles long and "L" (long) routes about 20 miles long.

Evening Explorer Rides are on alternate Wednesdays from mid-May to mid-August starting at 7 pm from one of 8 different starting points. They follow the short "S" routes so are about 10 miles long.

Saturday Stretcher Rides take place on the first Saturday of every month at 10 am from one of 4 different starting points. They are 20 to 25 miles long and do not follow a fixed route, so are suitable for more experienced cyclists.

Taster Rides are an occasional opportunity to try a Cyclesolihull ride without going very far. They are about 5 miles long starting at 2 pm from one of 3 different starting points – an ideal introduction to the rides for new cyclists and small children.

Refreshment Stops All Cyclesolihull rides have an en-route refreshment stop of about 30 minutes, either at a pub or a tearoom.

** all except those weekends when there is a Saturday Stretcher or Taster Ride.*

For full details of current rides go to:

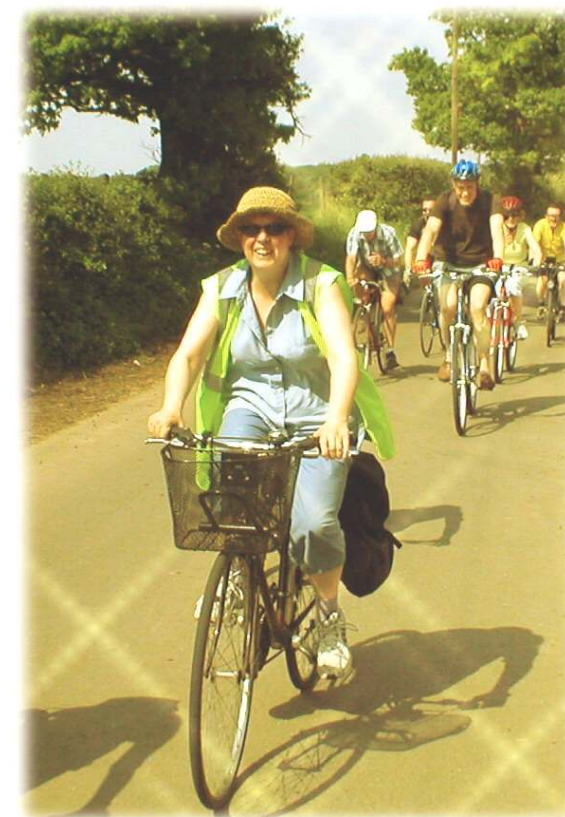
www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull 'Ride Together'** leaflet on one of the rides or at local libraries and cycle shops.

Route S4

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



Dickens Heath to Tanworth & Earlswood (6 or 9 miles)

Have fun and get fit exploring your local area with this self-guided cycle ride.

Route S4

Dickens Heath to Tanworth-in-Arden & Earlswood Lakes

Distance: 6 miles (30 to 40 mins) or 9 miles (45 to 60 mins).

Start: The library, Dickens Heath, SP112763.

Parking: Behind shops in Main Street.

Route Summary: A ride along narrow country lanes through Forshaw Heath to Tanworth-in-Arden, a picturesque hill village. Then on to Earlswood Lakes constructed by French POWs from the Napoleonic Wars in the 1820s for water supply to the Stratford on Avon Canal.

Refreshments: In addition to facilities in Dickens Heath there is a daytime cafe at Earlswood Craft Centre and two pubs near Earlswood Lakes and one in Tanworth.

The Routes

A From outside the library turn right and bear left down Rumbush Lane, passing through the road closure and eventually passing Braggs Farm Lane on the left.

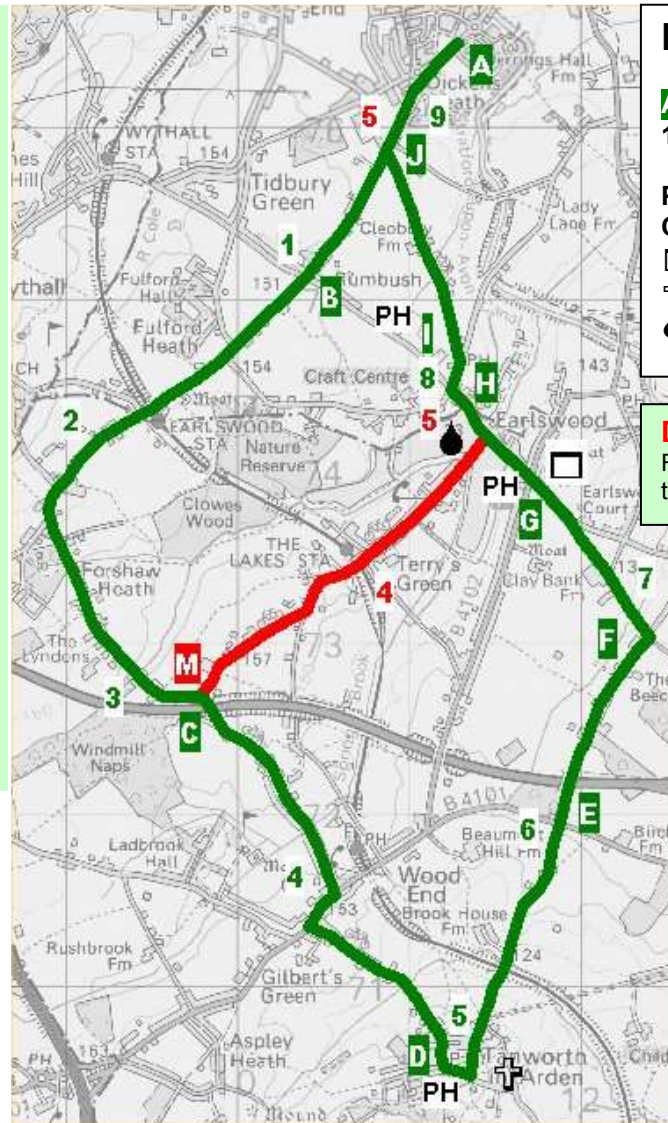
B At the next crossroads carry straight on along Rumbush Lane. Continue for about 3 miles passing Earlswood railway station.

To continue with the shorter route

M Just before the motorway bridge turn left. Continue straight on over the railway to emerge between the two lakes. At the end of the road turn left to rejoin the main route at point **H**

To continue the main route




C Cross over the motorway and at the end of



the road turn right along Broad Lane (signposted to M42/A435) and immediately left towards Tanworth and the Children's Farm. Follow the road, which becomes quite steep, up into Tanworth-in-Arden.

D In the village keep left, following signs to the Children's Farm. The Bell pub is in the village. Pass the Children's Farm on right, passing under the railway and up Tom Hill which is quite a climb.

Key to Map

- A** Reference point
- 1, 4** Mileage from start, red numbers indicate by the shorter route
- PH** Public House
- CF** Café or tea shop
-  Shop selling drinks, sweets etc.
-  Historic church
-  Waterway with access point

Doing the shorter ride?

Follow the red route for a shorter ride that takes you between the two lakes at Earlswood.

E At the crossroads with the B4101 (Broad Lane) go straight on into Tithe Barn Lane and over the motorway.

F Turn first left into Umberslade Road signposted towards Earlswood.

G At the crossroads go straight on into Valley Road passing the shop and Reservoir pub. Bear left to cross the lake dam. Go carefully past the chicane between the two lakes and continue straight on.

H To visit the café at Earlswood Craft Centre, turn left into Wood Lane for 200 yards. Otherwise turn right into Lady Lane signposted to Dickens Heath.

I Immediately before the Red Lion pub, turn left into Cleobury Lane.

J Go right at the crossroads with Rumbush Lane and follow the road back into the centre of Dickens Heath.

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