

**OXFORD PEDESTRIANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO.56
MARCH/APRIL 2004**

Welcome to Issue no. 56 of OxPA's Newsletter! Walking is generally seen as a gentle, healthy exercise, but this Newsletter carries the story of a member who recently suffered a typical pedestrian injury. Our own OxPA activist, Jill H., caught her foot in a hole in the footway whilst walking briskly along London Road, and fell onto her hand and face. She sat for four hours in the casualty department of the John Radcliffe Hospital, covered with blood. Jill received five stitches in her chin, and one inside her mouth. One of her teeth is loose, and she cannot open her mouth so has to eat 'soft foods' for two weeks. In addition one hand is slightly sprained. A high price to pay for walking! Jill rang the County Council and is pursuing a claim against them for the cost of clothing ruined by blood, compresses, and liquid food. Jill has passed on the details of who to contact if you fall on a main road and wish to claim compensation: Mrs Tomkins, Northern Area Highway Office; tel. no. (01865) 844300. Before contacting them take photographs of the trip fall hazard and of the injuries to yourself, because once they have patched up the pavement and you have healed there is no proof of your claim. Meanwhile, all good wishes to Jill for a speedy recovery!

- 1) Our April 19th meeting is to be a special one with guest speakers Dr Andrew Chivers, Executive Committee Chair of Oxford's Primary Care Trust, and Dr Tim Chapman, Public Health, who have been invited to come and talk about the benefits of walking for well-being and health. The meeting will be publicly advertised with the aim of attracting potential new active members. **Please make a note of the date, and come to this meeting even if you do not usually attend.** Please also bring a friend, and let people know about the meeting, which should be interactive, fun and informative.
- 2) **Re: the traffic lights at the North end of Cornmarket.** Samantha Tharme, Senior Transport Planner at Oxfordshire County Council sent us a letter saying that OxPA was consulted on and approved the traffic lights. Because we have no memory of the consultation we have asked for the record of it, but although the request was made some five plus weeks ago there has not yet been a response. As it happens, the lights are either broken or have been turned off; either way it means that **as before, bus drivers and walkers alternately (and naturally) give way to one another and the junction is moving more easily again.** When lights give drivers the 'right' to go ahead, they tend to do so more aggressively than when there are no lights, so let us hope the County notices this and takes the lights back out again!
- 3) **The new Chief Transport Planner for Oxfordshire is Mr David McKibben.** He will be overseeing all road and pavement plans and designs, and is the Man at the Top should we need him. **Ring 792422,** and ask to be put through to him.
- 4) **However, should there be any City Centre issues that members wish to air to a professional, Mr Bill McCardle is the Chief Executive of the Oxford City Centre Management company.** He is based at Thomas Hull House, on Bonn Square, Oxford OX1 1LQ; tel. no. 728440; e-mail bill@ox1.uk.com.
- 5) **Footway parking. At present it is not a crime to park on the pavement.** If the pavement is completely obstructed and you cannot get past whatever is blocking it, people can contact the police, who can issue a ticket for 'obstruction'. Your Newsletter Editor can verify that this is indeed the case, although it takes several telephone calls before the police are willing to attend such a problem. **Driving onto the footway is an offence, but the driver has to have been seen driving onto the pavement, and CCTV footage cannot be used as evidence!** A contract

is ready to protect bus lanes from drivers parking in them, and this will mean CCTV cameras being used there, and backed up by Control Plus. But like pavements, cycle lanes are also legal places to park. **The Department of Transport are currently considering pavement parking, and paying £200,000 to consultants who are 'looking at the issue from every point of view'. John Grant** is the Civil Servant running the study. Following this guidelines will be issued. Meanwhile, if you are having problems with inconsiderately parked cars, **the Control Plus number is 793146.**

- 6) **On a similar note, please smile and be nice to Control Plus wardens when you see them.** Apparently they do not stay in their jobs for long because they get such a hard time from drivers.
- 7) **Re: vehicles sitting with engines running.** The City Council is currently applying for powers to deal with this, as it is illegal, and more importantly, **vehicle emission levels in Oxford City are still too high for human health.** If the engine of a vehicle is running, a licensed driver should be sitting in it. **However, your Newsletter Editor has approached licensed drivers on several occasions and politely asked them if they could switch off their smelly engines, and the drivers have always either done so quickly, or driven off.**
- 8) **City Pay & Display machines have been vandalised and robbed by juvenile criminals, who have so far been arrested seventeen times!** So far the machines on St Giles have been expensively repaired, and next on the list is Great Clarendon Street and Walton Street. Apparently the youngsters drilled into the bottom of the machines to access the cash; then once the bottoms were reinforced they then hack sawed the backs off the machines. Now the offenders are banned from the City Centre, so if they breach that they are in breach of bail conditions and will be locked up.
- 9) **School crossing patrols are needed. Roger Keble has lots of nice new uniforms waiting to be worn by 'lollipop' staff.** The age limit for the job is 18-65; however, if you are older than this you can still apply, but have to have annual medical checks for insurance purposes. **If you are interested please ring Roger on (01865) 815615.**
- 10) **Long term active member of OxPA, and one of our founder members, Jenny Linsdell, has moved on from Oxford.** Her honest, radical voice will be much missed. OxPA wishes Jenny best wishes wherever she ends up living, and hopes her work to make a better society for vulnerable road users will continue.
- 11) **Finally, please let us have your e-mail address if you have one, so that we can keep you up to date about meetings outside of the monthly ones (ie. meetings with officers etc.).** Send your e-mail address to **Corinne on corinneje@hotmail.com.**

Our next two meetings are on Mondays March 15th and April 19th at 7pm in St Aldate's Centre, Pembroke Street, off St Aldates. Please come (especially to the April meeting) and please bring a friend. Everybody is welcome!

Contact Number

National Pedestrians Association (Living Streets).....0207 820 1010