Bike maintenance on campus

During Security week we took the opportunity to promote safe and secure cycling at the University.

We had Dr Bike on campus for 3 days and he worked non-stop for the time he was here ensuring the bikes he was brought were safe to ride. He also found the time to provide some taster sessions for the bicycle maintenance courses that will be starting up shortly, teaching staff and students how to maintain their own bikes.

Keep an eye on the University web portals for more details of the full courses coming soon.

Bike recycling

Every year the University is left with a number of abandoned bicycles, which have slowly been rusting in storage, and are currently held by UPP who are now managing the University’s halls of residence.

The University’s Clean and Green team has coordinated a partnership between the University, RUSU, UPP and CTC (Cycling Touring Club) a national charity which is working with Reading Borough Council to promote cycling and cycling facilities, to bring these bikes back to life.

The bikes are in various states of disrepair from scrap to those which need minor adjustment to bring them back into use. Where bikes are not able to be refurbished, working parts are salvaged and used on other bikes by our two keen qualified cycle mechanics, Javed Saddique and Jacek Zak from the CTC. This is the first scheme of this type in Reading.

The bikes are then offered for hire by Reading University Students’ Union (RUSU), complete with their own good quality lock. The proceeds from the hire scheme will be used to meet the cost of any maintenance and repairs to ensure that the bikes stay in circulation in the long term. To date 10 bikes have been refurbished and are ready for hire. Over 100 students have registered an interest in the scheme.

Karen Stanbridge, the University’s Sustainable Travel Co-ordinator said: ‘Many students are keen cyclists but aren’t always able to bring their bikes with them, particularly if they are from overseas. They now have the opportunity to hire bikes cheaply and we will provide maintenance and repair sessions so that they can keep them in good roadworthy condition.’

The scheme is also looking for volunteers to help sign out the bikes and promote the project on campus. Contact Emily Shaw at RUSU emily.shaw@reading.ac.uk

Want to help improve facilities for cyclists on campus?

We are seeking volunteers to monitor the cycle racks close to their departments and provide other cycling related feedback.

Email travel@reading.ac.uk to volunteer.

Parking Permit Patrols

Have you noticed more people parking without permits receiving penalty notices recently? In the Staff and Student travel survey a number of you reported that we were not ticketing those parking on campus without a permit enough, which was unfair to those of you who had paid, so we have stepped up the patrols for this year.
We’re listening
Travel survey feedback sent to local councils
A massive thank you to everyone who completed the staff and student travel survey we conducted last academic year. We had an excellent response of 3016 complete responses from staff and students. The winner of the student prize draw was Nicola Smith from Biological Sciences. And the staff prize draw was Judith Fox from the Library. They each received a fabulous iPad.

We have completed our review of all the comments and feedback you provided in the survey, which has proved to be really useful information when combined with the summary report of the data gathered in the survey provided last year and available on our clean and green website. As part of our follow up we have given your feedback to the local councils where relevant and are in discussions with Reading and Wokingham Councils about pedestrian crossings and cycling facilities around the campus perimeter and further afield. We will be raising the issues relating to Greenlands with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Councils very soon.

We’re always keen to hear your feedback, and ideas that would make your journeys easier, so keep the suggestions coming in to travel@reading.ac.uk

Bike security labelling
We have introduced a new bike labelling and registration scheme to improve bicycle security on campus.
The labels act as a deterrent to thieves as they are visible, as well as a means of returning your bike to you if it is recovered. During the label launch in security week we had 57 people signing up, and labelling will also be available during Greenweek. Security will now set aside time every other Friday when staff and students can come and get their bikes security labelled and details logged, starting Friday 23 November between 12.00pm and 2.00pm. Just bring your bike to the Security window in Whiteknights House, no appointment necessary.

Hertz on Demand
University car club
Need access to a car for a trip to the shops, to attend a meeting, or for other occasional journeys?
The University of Reading Car Club, provided by Hertz on Demand, could be just what you’re looking for. The scheme gives students and staff access to Pay-As-You-Go vehicles available for hire on campus from only £5.50 an hour.
Visit www.reading.ac.uk/cag2-whatcanyoudo-travelandtransport-carclub.aspx for more details.

Liftshare week
The University had its Liftshare week promoting rucarsharing.com from 29th October to 2nd November. The main aim of the week was to encourage more people to sign up at www.rucarsharing.com and register journeys, this increases the chance of making people finding matches. We’ve had a brilliant response of 42 new members registered during the week, maybe something to do with offering an excellent prize of a Kindle.
Thanks to everyone who took part. I hope you have found some potential matches and will start saving money on fuel soon!

Four people travel by bus for £5!
Travelling in a group? Excellent savings to be had by buying a ‘fourgotogether’ bus ticket. It’s so simple: four people – £5 for bus travel the whole evening after 7pm. Valid all day weekends, public holidays and during school holidays. £8 for bus travel for a whole day at all other times.

Buses at Reading

Simplyuni passes
Simplyuni passes are great value bus passes provided by Reading Buses for University of Reading Students and Staff. This year we have introduced the annual pass which is valid for a full year. This is a direct result of requests from staff and students who are in Reading over the summer period and wanted continued excellent value bus travel. Therefore there are now three Simplyuni passes available:

1. Termly simplyuni pass £99 for 10 weeks
2. Yearly simplyuni pass £297 for 3 terms
3. NEW Full year simplyuni pass £399 for a full year. Save £101 on a standard annual pass.

To buy, visit: www.reading-buses.co.uk/shop2/?c=15

Four people travel by bus for £5!