

## Cycling: four wheels good, two wheels better?

September 2014



[Mark Birbeck](#) , [Gabriele Schliwa](#) , [Helen Nugent](#) and [Nick Vaughan](#) introduced a discussion on improving the road experience for all, chaired by [Keith McCabe](#)



Having a bicycle for a child was often a precursor to travelling beyond the physical confines of your neighbourhood, and the first steps to adolescent freedom. Getting on your bike and visiting friends without needing a lift from mum and dad, or being able to cycle to the countryside away from the watchful eyes of adults has long been a rite of passage for teenagers. Though older generations may have known bicycles as their only mode of transport for going to work, most people now have access to a car yet many commuters are frustrated by congestion, and a plethora of impediments on the road. A return to the bicycle as a realistic form of transport is being publicly promoted, so what are we to make of such campaigns to get us on our bike again?



Some background readings

[Velocity 2025: A cycling plan for 2025 and beyond](#) , Transport for Greater Manchester

[Cycling in London - a crisis of progress](#) , by Felix Denton, spiked 18 November 2013

[A Cycle Strategy for Greater Manchester](#) , CILT meeting write-up, Mad Cycle Lanes of Manchester 24 November 2013

[Bike ride saboteurs sprinkle DRAWING PINS on peaceful New Forest road after local villagers complain about scourge of cyclists in otherwise 'tranquil' area](#) , by Leon Watson, Daily Mail 15 April 2014

[Hundreds take to Manchester streets for naked bike ride – pictures and video](#) , by Jennifer Williams, Manchester Evening News 06 June 2014

[New Forest officials criticised for turning down bike scheme funding](#) , by Peter Walker, The Guardian 15 August 2014

[Gear we go! Thousands expected to saddle-up for Cycle to Work day in Manchester](#) , by Charlotte Cox, Manchester Evening News 3 September 2014

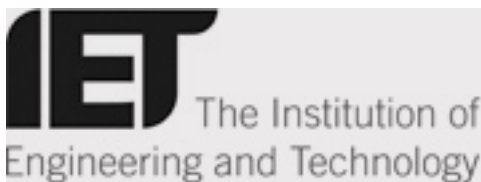
Video of the Battle of Ideas 2013 discussion entitled '[Free riders: cycle helmets and health and safety](#)' which touches on some key issues.

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**Watch video of the speaker and audience comments below. Thanks to Dan Clayton the [documentary filmmaker](#) from Leeds for this.**

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### **Discussion Sponsored and Partnered by**



This Salon discussion is generously partnered and sponsored by the [Manchester Network of the IET](#) , one of the largest and most active outside London, stemming from the amalgamation of the Northern Society of Electrical Engineers, founded in 1893, with the Institution of Electrical Engineers in March 1900. Aiming to retain the high standards are maintained into the future the IET Manchester Network has six technical groups covering a wide range of special interests: Communications, broadcasting and multimedia technical group (CBM); Computing, control and

automation technical group (CCA); Engineering, management and manufacturing technical group (EMM); Multi technical group (MTG); Power technical group (PTG) and Transport technical group (TTG). They also organise two other groups: Young Professionals (YP) and Retired Members (RM).



[Northern Soul](#) is a webzine based in the North of England. Its mission is to celebrate all things Northern, from theatre, music, authors and art to heritage, small businesses, food and leading figures, as well as everything inbetween. The 35-strong team of professional journalists, photographers and specialists talk to the people who work, rest and play in our part of the world and scour the region for interesting stories, histories, ambitions and events.

Responding to the unacceptable number of cycling deaths and serious injuries in the North of England, Northern Soul is launching a major cycling campaign called Cycle for Change. Wanting to raise the profile of cycling safety in the region, Northern Soul is campaigning to overcome any lack of political will by pressing for change.