

Re~Cycle Newsletter ~ Xmas 2001

Dear friends of Re~Cycle,

Sorry for the long delay in communication.

I have to blame it on a VERY bad case of malaria which I caught in Ghana last year. After lapsing into a coma, I was in hospital for two months and it's taken me a few months to fully recover - not helped by a bout of appendicitis... I'm OK now and the malaria was thankfully a non-recurrent type.

Quite a lot has happened since I last sent out the newsletter last year but most importantly, we have a bit of a cash flow crisis at the moment because I haven't been able to do much (see above!).

The money is needed to pay for extra staffing costs as we're very overworked.

We also need the money to set up some more collection points to help meet the high demand for bikes. If you're interested in setting one up then please contact me at info@re-cycle.org. We have a fact sheet we can send which details what we're looking for.

So far, we've sent 6,500 bikes in 18 containers to six countries but we have another 1,500 bikes kindly donated by Royal Mail which need to get where they're most needed. It costs £1,200 to send a container with 300 bikes...

Our website is being updated next month (September) so that it's capable of receiving online donations

We're hoping to raise some money through marketing the amazing *FreeRadical*, which converts a bicycle into the world's first Sports Utility Bicycle (SUV). [For more info see http://www.Re~Cycle.org/shop/xtracycle.html](http://www.Re~Cycle.org/shop/xtracycle.html)

Retail price is £270 including VAT. I've personally carried a LOT of stuff on the *FreeRadical* all over the world and a few weeks ago had two (slender) people surfing at the same time, hands free, for the first time :-)

The bike was developed in the USA and can carry 100kgs and adds only 5kgs to a normal bike. All the profits go to Re~Cycle.

And here's some other news...

Upstart

- ◆ I've been studying at the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE - www.sse.org.uk) in Bethnal Green for one day a month. The project based course ends in December and is helping me turn Re~Cycle into a sustainable medium size organisation. The SSE was set up by Lord Michael Young who has helped establish hundreds of organisations, including the Open University and the Consumers Association.

- ◆ Our partner Afribike is organising the first African AIDS Awareness Ride on December 1, 2001. Re~Cycle is having an UK ride starting at the same time. We're looking for UK folk to sponsor South African (RSA) riders and ride here, rather than pollute and fly over to Africa. We're also looking for people to help organise this in the UK and other countries (liaise with AIDS organisations, local bike groups...).[Is that truly on?] **WHO SHOULD THEY CONTACT ABOUT THIS? THIS NEEDS MORE EXPLANATION?** For more information go to http://www.afribike.org/AFB_aidsride.html. Also see our latest photos from Africa, where our Royal Mail donated bikes are going a long way: http://www.Re~Cycle.org/Photo_Gallery/royalmailphotos0106.htm
- ◆ June was a VERY busy month for us with Bike Week. We went to Harrogate (Trade Show), Bath (Wheel Thing), London (SSE). We also loaded a container of bicycles for Romania (Gregorian-Kumar Foundation - philadelphia-trans@roetco.ro),

Dates for your diaries

And finally, did you know that you can also help Re~Cycle through your utility bills worldwide, with an ongoing percentage of the cheaper bills going to the charity? Check it out at http://www.Re~Cycle.org/Donate_Now_/acn.html

Thank you all for your support

Merlin Matthews $\frac{_}{_}0$
 Director $\frac{_}{_}\<$,
 Re~Cycle $(*)/(*)$

Relieving Poverty by Taking Used Bikes to New Territory
 Charity # 1063570

WANTED - **MONEY** - volunteers, funding, good Mac laptop, semi / industrial shelving

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www.Re~Cycle.org - our AWARD WINNING site (Netscape + AOL), please link

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi