

2016-02 Focus On Member Sam Bunting

Sam Bunting is an avid cyclist and bicycling advocate. He has been instrumental in efforts to improve safe cycling in the Princeton area and making cycling a family affair by offering family rides.

I grew up in Northern Ireland and from a young age, my bike was my way of getting around. My first bicycle was a chopper-style Raleigh Tomahawk, but I used to get a lot of grief about it, because choppers were out and you really had to have a BMX in those 80s days. When I was a teenager, I was a paperboy for a long time, and I spent so much time riding around delivering the 'Belfast Telegraph' that my bike became like an extension of me. I kept riding as a student because I was at two great bike towns - Oxford and Cambridge - in England. Then I was living in DC for 6 years, where I became a card-carrying member of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. For a busy city, DC is very bike-able, and there's some great trails. When I moved to Princeton, the possibility of being able to get around by bike was a big plus. I like to use my bike mostly for transportation, although I don't ride to work any more, because I work in New Brunswick and I guess I'm a bit more risk-averse than I used to be (the roads are crazy). Right now I own two bicycles. One is a basic Trek 7.2 hybrid, which I have fitted with a front-seat for my daughter. She loves being on the bike, and it's a nice thing for us to do together. My other bicycle is a 1973 'Hercules' 3-speed. I keep it at work so I can scoot between campuses at Rutgers.

