

# Wife's challenge inspires businessman's new idea

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AN ANDOVER businessman has come up with a smart solution for those commuting on bikes in London.

Sandy Carrick-Buchanan has designed a tote bag specifically to fit the London cycle scheme, after becoming frustrated at the lack of storage space on the bikes.

The 50-year-old works in the city and, during his daily commute using the London cycle scheme, he noticed how useless the luggage rack was.

"I commute into London most days," explained the father-of-four, who works for an accountancy firm, adding: "I use the Boris Bikes, as they are known, and also use them to travel around London to meetings, and I found them wanting."

The bikes have a luggage rack with rubber bungees to hold everything in place, which Sandy found either crushed everything or items fell out.

"I said to my wife Katie 'this is rubbish' and she said why don't you do something about it?"

So Sandy came up with an idea to combat the problem and set up his own independent business called Bikeshare Bags.

He has found a company in China to produce the bags and worked with a freelance designer on the specific features.

The custom built tote bags are designed to snugly and securely fit the bike to accommodate a daily commute or shopping trip, and are currently available in red or grey, but with more colours coming soon.

Now the business is up and running, Sandy's wife Katie is hoping to take over the day-to-day operations, and market the product.

The 47-year-old used to work in marketing and PR for a retail company, and so her background will help her promote the new bags.



Katie and Sandy Carrick-Buchanan

Meanwhile, Sandy has big ambitions to take the new product overseas.

He added: "There are 10,000 bikes in London and 350,000 registered users, but there are also 10,000 bikes in New York and 5,000 in Boston so we want to take it to

North America as soon as possible.

"The idea is that it will become a full time business for Katie, and she can run it from home."

The bags cost £35.

For more information, go to [bikesharebags.co.uk](http://bikesharebags.co.uk).

## New sales director at company

A SPECIALIST security provider is marking its expansion through the appointment of a new sales director.

Venture Security, based in Dene Road, Andover, is ranked within the UK's top two per cent of security providers and has a client list including Hampshire County Council, Aster Group and Southampton Football Club.

Michael McGarry will be welcomed on board to work closely with the senior management team and the board to spearhead the company's growth plans.

Mr McGarry joins the company with more than 20 years business development experience including five years as a catering and events firm managing director and being a Europe, Middle East and Africa sales director for a hospitality technology company.

On his appointment, Mr McGarry said: "I'm delighted to now be joining the company, as it enters the next stage in its development."

"What really appealed to me about the role is that Venture is a values-driven company."

## Eggs-citing times at school

STUDENTS at a school in Basingstoke got to get their hands on part of the circle of life, courtesy of a house-builder.

Pupils from South View Infant and Nursery School



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