



Newsletter: June/July 1999

Editorial

We're on a roll! The Campaign's hitting an unprecedented peak of activity, with a healthy mix of lobbyists pushing for better cycling conditions, plus a team of active members staging many events over the next 2 months, including our popular Cyclists' Breakfast, a Treasure Hunt, and a summer party near Camden Market featuring a steel band... see overleaf.

Membership is now at 686, and is expected to rise further following a concerted leafletting campaign in May.

My thanks for support & bundles of energy from Jane, Debbie, Magda, Sue, Paul, David, Richard, Mayer, Steve, & Peter. Lionel rates a special mention for his innovative newsletter promotions in all the bike shops.

Paul Gasson, Camden Cycling Campaign Coordinator

Focus: 'Safe' Roads

The Council's press office recently heralded a drop in road casualties in Camden using the headline "Accidents Fall on Safe Streets of Camden" (see full [press release](#) on our site). Whilst the drop in fatalities from 13 in 1997 to 5 in 1998, and a decrease in reported injuries from 1,677 to 1,566 in 1998 is welcome, these figures are still shocking in terms of human cost ... and we cannot accept that our streets merit the use of the word 'safe'. If they were, our borough would be filled with cyclists, & there wouldn't be petrified pedestrians dodging cars as they tried to cross our 'safe' roads!

Meanwhile, a new Friends of the Earth report reveals that 33 of the 50 worst polluted roads in London are in the boroughs of Camden, Barnet & Haringey. The worst pollution in Camden is in Finchley Rd, Prince Albert Rd, Camden High St, Avenue Rd, Camden Rd, & Parkway.

Whilst the proposed 20 mph zones (see [below](#)) may help tame some wilder motorists, unless the majority of Camden's councillors join forces to forge an environmental vision for our borough, and follow it through with a radical implementation programme, we don't expect big improvements in road safety or air/noise pollution. How about real traffic reduction via road space reallocation, street closures, & big cuts in on & off-street parking bays?

Short Cuts

Traffic reduction

In early May Glenda Jackson MP was the keynote speaker at a Camden meeting organised by Friends of the Earth, which attracted 200 people. When asked if she would honour her pre-general election pledge to support a 10% traffic reduction target, she committed the government to setting a target for an unspecified percentage cut, but only 'before the next general election'. And she admitted that the 1998 Transport White Paper measures will lead to an estimated 25% increase on current traffic levels by 2010.

Camden's Plan to Encourage Walking?

A pedestrian has claimed against Camden after tripping on a loose paving stone. The council's solicitors retaliated with a 7 point list of 'contributory negligence', including failing to place his feet carefully,

carrying shopping bags which were too heavy, and walking too fast! He's presumably learnt his lesson, & now drives everywhere.

Wheel Meet Again

Our Lock Tavern meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month; the next two are 14 June, 12 July

CCC Annual General Meeting

Our AGM takes place at 6.30 - 7pm, just before our members meeting on 12th July at the Lock Tavern. All LCC/CCC members welcome. Contact Paul 0171-482-6692.

Traffic Schemes

Camden is to be congratulated on consulting the public on four large 20 mph zones over the last 2 months: East & West Kentish Town, Camden Sq. & Regents Park Estate.

But we have objected vehemently to the huge amount of diagonal parking planned for the West Kentish Town controlled parking zone; it squanders precious road space, encourages high levels of car ownership (& thus car use), & adds new hazards for pedestrians & cyclists.

Better news is a plan to close Jeffrey's Street, & make Castle Road no entry to westbound motorists; both measures are proposed for the roads' junctions with Kentish Town Road, & each will allow cyclists through.

And formal consultation is due any day now for an extension of the physically segregated two-way cycle track in Royal College Street southwards to the Crowndale Road crossing.

Web Update

There's no way we can cover all our news and activities in this newsletter, so sign up to our email local news service (and discussion group) which was launched in April.

You'll get a weekly digest of local news, cycling /transport highlights from the local press, notice of new traffic schemes, a summary of our main web site updates, and the newsletter 2 weeks ahead of this printed version.

O2 be a Planner!

Member Lionel Shapiro snapped these signs at the start of the new segregated pedestrian & cycle route behind the Finchley Rd O2 Centre.



EVENTS



Sunday 13th - Sun 20th June

All our events are free, sociable and fun... we look forward to meeting you! Unless otherwise stated, non-members welcome.

Sunday 13th: Richmond Park Critical Mass & Picnic

Join cyclists from across London in a slow mass ride around Richmond Park, followed by a picnic on the grass. Tally-ho into this beautiful mediaeval deer park, under siege of relentless abuse from streams of fuming rat-runners! Help bring silent relief to the park's typical gridlock on a summer Sunday. Meet 10:45 am at Hampstead Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill.

David: 0171 431 2964

Monday 14th, from 7pm. Celebrate the Joys of Cycling in Camden!

A free drink for the first 20 members to arrive. We're meeting upstairs at the popular Lock Tavern pub (Chalk Farm Rd/Harmood St, opposite Stables Market). First a brief discussion on what's been happening in Camden, then we move into party mode. Secure cycle parking in the pub's garden, but you'll need to arrive before 7.15pm to use it.

Paul: 0171-482-6692

Wednesday 16th, 8.00 - 9.30 am : Cyclists' Breakfast

A sociable start to the day, with the chance of bumping into one or two celebrities, whilst tucking into free food & fruit juice. Outside the New British Library in Ossulston Street, near the Euston Road junction.



Stand-up comic Andrew Bailey promoting our breakfast in May. Photo © Debbie Humphry
Saturday 19th, noon - 4pm: Dr Bike Cycle Maintenance

Free checkup for your bike, with small repairs carried out if queue isn't too long. Find us outside West Hampstead Library, corner of Dennington Park Rd/W. End Lane.

Sunday 20th, 2pm : Cross-Camden Treasure Hunt

We'll form up teams to solve a series of cryptic clues that will take you on a mystery tour and may lead you to the fabulous hidden treasure. A combination of trivial knowledge, teamwork, intuition and map-reading ability could make yours the winning team. We'll all meet up for a drink at the end. Assemble 2pm outside Camden Town Hall, Judd Street (next to Euston Road junction).

More Events in June & July Sunday 27th June: Herts of Middle England An easy paced ride

through the Herts countryside, 30 miles. Meet W. Hampstead Thameslink, 11.15 for 11.27 Harpenden train.

David 0171 431 2964, darditti@zetnet.co.uk

Monday 12th July : Members Get-Together

Meet us, get the latest news, and have fun. From 7pm upstairs at the Lock Tavern Pub, Chalk

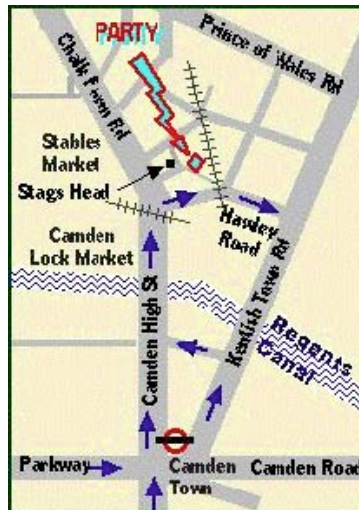
Farm Road/Harmood Street. Jane 0171-794-9708

Sunday 18th July: Partying in Camden

We're having a summer party! And if you are a cyclist - you're invited, it's as simple as that - if you are not an LCC member, all you need to do is join at the door (**membership subscription rate £5.50 -£19.50**). So if you know of friends, neighbours, colleagues or even just acquaintances who cycle but are not yet aware of the benefits of CCC membership - bring them along to this hot happening.

There will be **sunshine, food, drink** (bring a bottle!) and a **fabulous, massive steel band**. The idea is to show prospective new members, and remind current ones, that theres more to CCC than effective campaigning - we like to have fun too!

The action takes place from 4 till 8pm at **Steve and Magda's - 52 Hawley Road NW1** - which is opposite the Stags Head pub. Children are welcome. You can bring your bike into the garden which is just to the right of the house. Come in and chill out!



Sunday 25th July : Epping Forest Ride

The urban jungle from another angle: 30 miles round East London mainly on paths and minor roads, easy pace. Meet Hampstead Old Town Hall, Haverstock Hill at 11.30 am.