

The "Camden Cyclist"

Jun / Jly '04 Newsletter of Camden Cycling Campaign

Camden
Cycling
Campaign

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Web site at: www.greengas.u-net.com

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Bike Week June 12th - 20th

Dr. Bike in West Hampstead

Sat June 12th, 12-5pm. Dr. Bike will be outside West Hampstead Library (junction of Dennington Park Rd/West End Lane). A checkup for your bike and free advice. Contact James*.

Feeder ride to TFL festival

Sun June 13th. Meet at 11.45 at the Interchange Centre (Old Town Hall) Haverstock Hill or 10.30 at TallyHo corner. Contact David Arditti, darditti@lineone.net

TfL festival, 'Bikefest in the Square'

1-5pm. in Trafalgar Square. Includes a large screen with extracts from bike films, celebrity interviews, bike-powered music, trials bike demo area, art installation, childrens workshops, bike try out, etc. Stall to show people how to start cycling in London.

Discussion of Sustrans work in London

Mon June 14th, 7.30 pm. Members meeting, including a discussion with Hermione Brightwell of Sustrans, London on *The scope of Sustran's work in London* At Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Street NW1.

Mini-Mass along the SSL to the Town Hall

Tues June 15th, 6 pm. Meet Fitzroy Square. Arrive at Town Hall by 7 pm in time to form delegation to committee meeting. See SSL East article over page. Contact Daniel*.

Childrens Ride Swiss Cottage

Tues June 15th, 8.15 am. Meet outside Swiss Cottage Library. Primary school children accompanied by their parents will ride up Fitzjohns Avenue to their schools. Contact Bob Spellar w: 7435 4135, h: 7482 7205.

Free Cyclists' Breakfast

Wed June 16th, 8.00 - 10.00 am. Ossulston St outside the New British Library (just off the Euston Road). Come to meet with cyclists and celebrities in incognito at this popular event, now in its 9th year. Contact Jane*

Thank God for bikes

Wed June 16th 1.10-1.40. Service at Regent Square United Reform church, Tavistock Place. Refreshments available in the church from 12.30 and after the service. Contact Maggie Hindley, 7267 4796.

Cyclists' Tea, Swiss Cottage, NW3.

Thursday June 17th 5-7pm. Stop off on your way home for a spot of refreshment! Meet by the Avenue Road 'Toucan' crossing, on the east side (near the Central School of Speech & Drama). Contact Meade*.

*contact details at end of this newsletter

Camden Green Fair and Bike fest

July 4th 12-7pm. St James Gardens, Cardington Street NW1. The green fair celebrates everything going on in Camden, in London and around the world to protect and improve our environment and quality of life - showing everyone how to have fun with a low environmental impact.

Bikefest will focus on the benefits of Urban cycling. This year, in addition to the traditional children cycle obstacle course and other cycle displays, CCC together with the Womens Design Service has organised a special event: Parents and Children Cycling Together (PACCT). A wide variety of bicycles with child seats, tag-a long, tandems and tricycles will be available for anyone to try.

July Members Meeting

July 12th, at 7.30 pm. In the Castlehaven Community Centre, near the Stags Head Pub, Hawley Street, NW1. You can bring your bike inside.

Hampstead Heath Open day

July 11th. 12-5 pm. CCC will be on Parliament Hill on the walking/cycling lane with a stall on Hampstead Heath open day. Come to enjoy the Heath and stop by for a chat.

Ride through Hertfordshire lanes



Photo: George Coulouris

On the last Sunday in April, six of us went on a ride led by George Coulouris. We took a route through Hertfordshire, mainly following Sustrans Route 12 from Radlett station via Hatfield to Old Knebworth where we had lunch at the Lytton Arms. After a visit to the grounds of Knebworth House, we followed quiet but quite hilly country lanes on a circuitous route back to Harpenden station. About 40 miles altogether.

Volunteers for Bike Week, Bike Fest etc.

CCC needs volunteers for the following tasks (contact Jane):

Bike week: Cyclists Breakfast, Cyclists Tea and stewarding the ride on 13th June;

Bike Fest: Helping with events;

Hampstead Heath Open Day: Helping with the stall.

Last chance for SSL East ?

The completion of Camden part of the Seven Stations Link is very important to CCC. As members will know, the last section from Judd Street to Grays Inn Road has been waiting for council permission for a year already. The environment subgroup will meet on June 15th at 7pm to consider its fate.

Paul Gannon will speak at this meeting on behalf of a delegation from CCC. As this is in Bike Week, we thought that a 'fun' way of gathering a delegation would be for members to meet in Fitzroy Square at 6pm, departing at 6.30 to ride along the SSL to the Town Hall for 7pm. Please join us and help to get the job finished.

Although CCC habitually refers to the route as SSL, it is now part of a longer route being planned to link in Waterloo and other stations south of the Thames. The new name is Stations Circular Route or SCR.

LCN+ maps and route finding

Web-based cycle route information is currently being developed under the supervision of John Dinunzio of LCN+. It is at www.londoncyclenetwork.org.uk. It provides a route finder and a large downloadable map of the entire LCN+. The route finder requires street names or postcodes of the start and finish of the journey and outputs a list of directions, together with an A-Z style map with the proposed route marked on it. Unfortunately this route finder is very hard to use: street names must be input in particular ways for it to work and it does not accept places of interest such as British Museum. Fortunately, when you eventually get it to work, its routes are not bad – it chooses cycle routes in preference to other roads, but doesn't appear to look for segregated routes. I hope that this potentially useful facility will be improved quickly. TfL provides its own route finder at www.tfl.gov.uk. This can be used with buses, tubes and trains, but if you go to 'more options' and select 'use cycle and ride', (deleting all other forms of transport), it produces a map, a set of directions and an estimated journey time. The TfL route finder is easier to use, allowing interesting destinations as well as roads to be specified in a straightforward way. But it appears to make less effort to choose cycle routes in preference to other roads.

Somers Town Cycle route

Following a recent attack on a cyclist in Purchase Street, CCC has again discussed the protection of cyclists on this route with the police. It is essential that any problems are reported promptly to the police. Our new police contact is:

Inspector Matthew Gardner phone 020 8733 6221 and email Matthew.Gardner3@met.pnn.police.uk.

Please also inform CCC of any such events, either via the mailing list (see top of newsletter) or directly to a committee member. The Somers Town councillors, particularly Roger Robinson have helped in this matter before. Their contact details are on the Camden council website at www.camden.gov.uk.

Camden Ice Cream Potter ride

Alix Stredwick writes about the joint CCC/WDS ride:

The weather did us a favour and despite threatening skies, there was no rain until the final few minutes. Indeed the sun was coming out as we gathered outside the New Goodfare Restaurant on Parkway. Eight women of various ages and abilities were ready to see what the borough of Camden can offer by means of dairy refreshment. On the back of this sociable and confidence-boosting ride, WDS aimed to do informal audits of the cycling facilities on the route.

We set off north up Arlington Road where we were immediately confronted by a road closure, but we continued up the hill towards Chalk Farm, round the back of Safeway's to take a quiet route over the pedestrian/cyclist bridge via King Henry's Road, to Swiss Cottage where a well-intentioned yet rather messy pedestrian/cyclist crossing led us to Baskin Robbins which was - shock horror - closed!

We decamped to Choco Bar opposite for some coffee and croissants. We liked the decor and the Italian waiter, who spotted that we arrived by bike. He recounted his tales of pleasure and pain of cycling in London with his daughter.

We headed north-west towards Hampstead Heath. A lovely pedestrian/cyclist-only square greeted us at Belsize Park and we marvelled at the grand town houses. The scenic route led us to the Heath where we squelched over the mud and were polite to pedestrians. The British Heart Foundation were holding a sponsored fun run. On buying their charity roses we told them we were supporting our own hearts by cycling.

The Heath's hills were somewhat challenging but the views were worth it. Some of us were itching to take mountain bikes down the steep 'off-piste' parts. At the Spaniard's Road exit we took a route through the North End of the Heath to North End Way, a busy road clogged with traffic even on a Sunday. We used the footpath to go down the steep hill to the lunch stop, Golders Hill Park Refreshment House.

We had lunch and swapped cycling tales and did talk about other topics honest. Going back the way we came we then continued along East Heath Road where we enjoyed the freewheel through to the heart of Camden via Malden Road to Marine Ices. Just over 8 miles altogether.



Photo: Alix Stredwick, Women's Design Service

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