



'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: June/July 2001

News for cyclists from the Camden Cycling Campaign (LCC), London.

Newsletter editor: Meade McCloughan

Festival of Cycling in Camden (aka 'Bike Week') 16th - 24th June

Sun. 17th Tour of the Parks & Heath ride: enjoy Camden's green spaces. Starting from Hampstead Old Town Hall (Haverstock Hill) at 2 pm; suitable for families & children. Finishes with ice-creams about 5 pm. David: 7431 2964, david@arditti.com **Wed. 20th Free Cyclists' Breakfast** 8 - 10 am, at Ossulston Street outside the new British Library. Munch & mingle at this popular & sociable event. Dr Bike cycle check-up. Guests include Camden musician DARRYL HUNT (ex-Pogues) pedalling his new brilliant CD 'Bish'; JON SNOW promises to whizz along and Camden Council Leader JANE ROBERTS will take a brake there . . . plus more to be announced. For more info: call Jane 7794 9708 or e-mail Paul at paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com

■ **Sunday 24th Bloomsbury BikeFest** Brunswick Square (opposite the Renoir Cinema), WC1, 11 am- 5 pm. In association with Bikefix, CTC and Camden Council, CCC presents a hands-on expo of all things bike! Try out recumbents, trikes, load-carriers, rickshaws and all kinds of unusual human-powered vehicles on the circuit round the park. Put your kids on the cycle-training obstacle course, and get a free Dr Bike check-up for your machine. Take a pedicab ride round the area, or go on a guided tour of the best cycle facilities in central London.

We need lots of help on the day for BikeFest - please come along, enjoy and participate! Contact David Arditti with offers of help (tel. 7431 2964, e-mail david@arditti.com).

Launch of Don't Choke Britain/Camden

The opening of Camden's Don't Choke Camden campaign is being launched this year with the closure to motor traffic of the Seven Dials area of Covent Garden on Tuesday 12th June, i.e., like last year's Car Free Day, which was a great success. CCC will be there with a stall and no doubt the Council will be doing its best to generate a festival atmosphere!

If you can, please pop along and give it your support - even better put in half an hour on the stall? If you'd like to help, contact Meade by telephone on 7625 9773, or by e-mail: m.mccloughan@ucl.ac.uk

Raising the Standards of Cycling?

CCC is thinking about holding a conference on this theme in the autumn. The purpose would be to deliver on the ground improvements in the skills, behaviour and compliance with road traffic regulations of those who cycle. It would have to examine the underlying issues and develop proposals to achieve change. A wide range of interested parties would be invited: the police, pedestrians, councillors, taxi-drivers, couriers (pedal-powered & motorized), researchers, etc.

Why? It's partly to help counter all the flak we get about pavement cycling etc - we want to be able to say that we are doing/have done something about such concerns. At the same time, it would great to achieve some actions on issues such as training, enforcement, raising awareness, design, etc.

The next CCC members meeting, on the 11th June, will be discussing this proposal in more detail: please come along and join in the debate!

CCC Members Evenings

Join in the discussions about how London can turn itself into a 'world class cycling city' at CCC members meetings. Be part of the future! We meet on the second Monday of every month from 7.30pm. The next two meetings will be on the 11th June and 9th July.

Find out what has been going on, and what's coming up for cyclists in and around Camden, and have your say and share a pint or two. Meet at the Castlehaven

Community Centre, Hawley Road, NW1. Secure indoor cycle parking.

Volunteers Needed!!!

CCC needs volunteers who can help with a variety of tasks such as stuffing this newsletter into envelopes, writing letters to the local newspapers, taking part in traffic counts, or simply putting forward your views on what cyclists need in London. The tasks can be as simple as you like and you need only spare an hour a

Dartmouth Park Hill Traffic Scheme

Islington Council has responsibility for this road which runs along the Camden border; it is proposing the package of traffic calming measures, including many speed cushions, pedestrian refuges and a kerb build out. The use of speed cushions, especially as all but one set are combined with carriageway narrowing features (in most cases pedestrian refuges), are of great concern. CCC's general position on speed cushions is that they make the road considerably more hazardous for cyclists, and they do not slow larger vehicles (remember lorries are responsible for a disproportionate number of cyclist deaths and serious injuries in London). The incline on the road is likely to add to the dangers. (The lower section of Dartmouth Park Hill is an unimplemented (ie planned) London Cycle Network route; it runs between the Tufnell Park junction and Churchill Road (then along York Rise).)

A cyclist was killed in Dartmouth Park Hill in February this year, and it is likely that excessive motor vehicle speed was the most important factor. CCC is objecting to these proposals on the basis that the measures will greatly increase hazards for cyclists. We are also seeking support from Camden Council in this respect.

If you haven't already, do look at our web-site, packed with information & features about cycling in Camden: <http://www.greengas.u-net.com>