



## 'Camden Cyclist' Newsletter: December 2000/Jan 2001

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

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### 2000 Campaign Diary & Events Listings

[Latest newsletter for Islington Cyclists Action Group \(Islington LCC\)](#) - requires [Adobe Acrobat PDF reader](#)

**Newsletter editor: Paul Gannon**

### **Royal College Street wins award**

The two-way segregated cycle track on Royal College Street has won the London Cycling Campaign 'best cycle facility' award.

The award was won against stiff opposition from the Hyde Park/Park Lane crossing which has been a campaigning objective of the LCC for the past ten years.

However, the clear and effective reallocation of road space to cyclists of the Royal College Street cycle track earned the London Borough of Camden and Camden Cycling Campaign the award.

### **Seven Stations Link - work starts**

Work on implementing the first kilometre of the Seven Stations Link will have started by the time this newsletter is distributed. We expect the first sections to be built will be west of Tottenham Court Road.

If you currently use these routes please take care during the construction work ... and look forward to a better cycling environment soon!

CCC is working with Camden Council on the detailed design of the route. You can follow details of the design process - and make comments - on the CCC website here: <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/SSLdesign/SSLroutedesign.html>.

The Seven Stations Link was the subject of a meeting held by Camden Council in early November with about 40 people from neighbouring boroughs, workplaces and interested organisations. CCC outlined the project to the audience and received warm backing from local employers who pointed out that as many as 20% of their employees already cycle to work and needed cycle parking places and safe routes.

Unfortunately, so far only Camden has understood the importance of building a high quality route and the Islington and Westminster sections will remain poor quality - at least for the time being.

## CCC News

### Hampstead Heath

The Corporation of London has said that it will not consider any changes to cycle routes before a review it already has planned for next year.

However, it is important to keep up pressure on the Corporation as the review could just as well lead to a complete ban on cycling (the aim of some interest groups) on the Heath rather than the modest (30%) increase in the present amount of permitted cycle routes. So please write to the Chairman Hampstead Heath Management Committee, P0 Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ pressing for a sensible cycle network.

### City of London - new cycling group

CCC is helping to re-start a City Cycling Campaign to cover the area run by the Corporation of London. If you live or work, or cycle through the City, and want to know more contact David Arditti - .

### E-mail news service

If you are on email, make sure you join the existing 60 subscribers to CCC's free news service which gives you local news updates, the chance to comment on traffic schemes in Camden, plus the opportunity to join in our on-line debates. For more information: paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com, or [subscribe online here](#).

### 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 month. Contact Jane Boardman - tel 020 7794 9708.

## Segregated cycle tracks

The arrival of continental style cycle tracks in London - with the opening of the Royal-College Street stretch - has provoked a minor debate within the London Cycling Campaign about the need for widespread provision of such facilities if we are to increase cycling levels substantially.

Some cycle activists fear that segregated tracks could lead to a reduction in cyclists' ability to deal with motor traffic and that cyclists may be banned from main roads where tracks are provided.

On the other hand there is overwhelming evidence that in those countries where there is the highest level of high-quality provision there is also the highest levels of cycling. And segregated tracks can only be a part of cycle route provision along with roads closed to through traffic and 'home zones' -we really don't need to fear that we will lose plenty of opportunities for interaction with motor cars for the foreseeable future.

But most important of all, all the surveys show that fear of motor traffic is the major obstacle to people cycling. The only way we will significantly increase cycling levels is by deploying the techniques that clearly work on the continent - techniques that address that fear by creating a less frantic environment for cycling.

## 'Bikemates' Wanted

A way of encouraging more people to get on their bikes may be to share with them some of the expertise we all accumulate about routes and roadcraft. Someone wanting to start cycling to work, say, might well benefit from a ride with a more experienced cyclist along a route the latter is familiar with.

As well as showing the novice commuter good routes to take, some basic and route-specific advice on road-craft could easily be passed on. To this end, I am assembling a list of people who would be willing to provide this service. In addition to name and contact details, I need succinct route information.

For example, my main route is:

- Kilburn (Quex Road) to Bloomsbury (Malet Street), via Swiss Cottage, Primrose Hill and Park Village East (and back!);

I can also do:

- Kilburn (Quex Road) to Mayfair (Bond Street), via St John's Wood, Church Street and Marylebone High Street (and back).

We hope to be able to provide some basic training for people who offer to be 'bikemates'.

Several people from the north-west of Camden responded last month - so we need people from other parts of the borough. Please e-mail or telephone Meade McCloughan: e-mail: [meade@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:meade@globalnet.co.uk) , tel. 7625 9773

## CCC Members Evenings

**2nd Monday every month from 7.30pm. The next two are: 11th December & 8th January**

Find out what has been going on, and what's coming up for cyclists in and around Camden, and have your say. Format starts with a 20 minute news briefing, then 1/2 hour discussion on any urgent issues, a debate on a topic agreed by those present, before degenerating into pure chit chat. There is also an option of a move to the pub to wind up proceedings.

Meet at the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Road, NW1 Secure indoor cycle parking.

Map of where the Centre is (next to Camden Market): <http://www.greengas.u-net.com/CCCdiary.html#CastlehavenCCMap>

For more info: call Jane 020-7794-9708 or contact Paul at [paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com](mailto:paulgasson@greengas.u-net.com).



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