

The "Camden Cyclist"

Aug/Sep '04 Newsletter of Camden Cycling Campaign

Camden
Cycling
Campaign

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Dates for your diary

Members meetings: August 9th and September 13th

In the Castlehaven Community Centre, near the Stags Head, Hawley Street, NW1 at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of each month. You can bring your bike inside.

September 13th: talk by Mayer Hillman

Mayer Hillman's new book 'How We Can Save the Planet' has just been published by Penguin. He will be giving a talk at our September meeting. Mayer believes that climate change is the single most important issue that humankind has ever had to face and that we should not delude ourselves by thinking that technology can provide a solution. Mayer believes that the introduction of carbon rationing is the only realistic way to save our planet

September 22nd: European Car Free Day

On this day, citizens all over Europe are supposed to give up the use of cars and find alternative modes of transport. This does happen in major European cities where car traffic is officially banned for several hours. Unfortunately not in the UK and especially not in London. The Mayor does not think it is practical to close down London roads for a CarFreeDay (other than Tower Bridge) while it is perfectly OK to do it for Formula 1 cars as it happened on July 6th.

LB Camden has decided to use this day to launch new initiatives. Last year they inaugurated the permanent closure of Museum Street (leaving a cycle gap) They are planning a similar event this year but details are not yet on their web site. With a bit of a grudge, we will support their event once it is announced. The week leading to CarFreeDay is Travel Wise Week. Please contact us or Camden if you wish to organise any event. (E.g. at UCL there is a departmental competition to see whose staff cycles more cumulative miles to work)

CCC's new website

CCC has a new domain name - camdencyclists.org.uk and a new website at the address www.camdencyclists.org.uk. This entirely new site has been designed by Andrew Conway. It takes account of members' suggestions at recent meetings.

Readers may wonder why we decided to start all over again when we already have Paul Gasson's site which is very rich with material on the design of cycling facilities, advice for cyclists, campaigning issues and many other good things. We are planning to incorporate Paul's material into the new website with his permission.

Paul designed his site in 1998 in the early days of the web. Six years later, new web-design software (known as CMS) makes it easy to develop interactive websites. The new site will allow members with particular roles to add information and for all members to add comments and take part in polls. It will be easy to add latest news and pictures without involving the web master.

In addition, the new website should be very easy to navigate. Please have a look at it and give us your feedback. A huge thank you goes to Paul for his great web site that has served us very well for all these years and to Andrew for the task of constructing a new one.

Report on Sustrans talk on June 14th

Hermione Brightwell talked to us about the work of Sustrans including travel plans and the new routes in the London area – the Wandle trail, the London Docklands and Lea Valley route and the London Thames Cycle route. The London office is currently attempting to clarify Sustrans' role in the context of LCC and TfL.

In comparison with LCN, Sustrans routes have more emphasis on being pleasant and less on providing the most direct route from A to B. People felt that there should be better linkage between the two networks, for example, Sustrans route 12 is not connected to central London. A very interesting evening was spent comparing and contrasting the two approaches.

Report on Bike Week June 12th-20th

This was a very busy week, which started on Saturday with a Dr. Bike at West Hampstead run by James Brander and Helen Vecht. They report a very busy afternoon.

On Sunday, David Arditti led CCC and Barnet Cyclists on a ride to the TfL festival in Trafalgar Square.

Children's ride from Swiss Cottage to Hampstead

Bob Spellar's Tuesday morning ride up Fitzjohns Avenue to school with 100 primary school children and parents was the highlight of the week.



Cyclists breakfast in Ossulston Street

Once again, Jane Boardman organised the free cyclists breakfast, which was very popular as always - we were pleased to see the parents carrying children on bikes and the many other cyclists who stopped by for a chat and refreshments.



Cyclists tea at Swiss Cottage

Meade McCloughan organised this new event. Large numbers of school children stopped for chocolate bars and drinks, the younger ones accompanied by parents, giving us the chance to discuss the pros and cons of cycling versus the school run. Stefano wondered whether a future tea outside a school might be a good idea. Considering the small scale and that we were competing with England's Euro 2004 football match, we were pleased to recruit two new (adult) members on the spot.



SSL eastern section gets green light

On June 15th, CCC members cycled as a 'mini-mass' from Fitzroy Square to Camden Town Hall for the meeting of the environment group which was due to consider the proposal for the extension of the SSL east of Judd Street.

Our deputation was led by Paul Gannon. The outcome was all that we wished for: it was agreed that this last section of the SSL in Camden should go ahead. CCC's was the only deputation - no locals opposed the cycle route.

If all goes well, the section from Marchmont Street to Judd Street should be completed this year and the part east of Judd Street in 2005-6

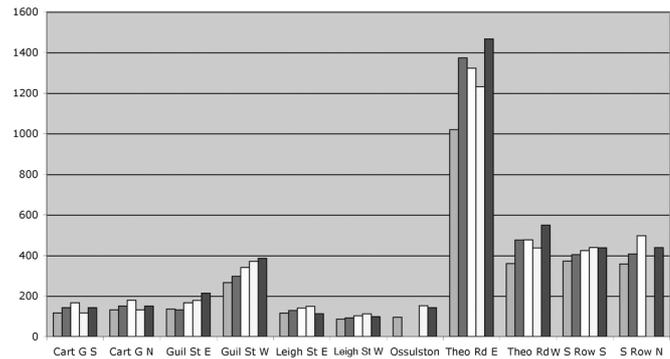
Cycle counts in Camden

Average weekday cycle counts Dec 2003-April 04

Last summer, Camden council installed cycle counters in the following locations (more details on the website):

- Cartwright Gardens, near the junction with Leigh Street
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- Guilford Street, near the junction with Lansdowne Terrace
- Ossulston Street, near the junction with Euston Road
- Theobalds Road, near the junction with Jockey's Fields
- Southampton Row, near junction with Bloomsbury Place

The counters provide daily counts, seven days per week on both sides of the road. The diagram shows early results and at most sites indicates a gradual increase in cycling.



Bike Fest and Camden Green Fair

July 4th: For the second year CCC has participated to the Camden Green Fair with a display of bicycles on car free streets. This year we were on Cardington Street just in front of St James Gardens where the now very popular Green Fair (in its 11th year) took place. Our theme was "parents and children cycling together". With the generous support of the Womens Design Centre and the collaboration of Bikefix and ZERO we were able to offer parents the chance to try out a variety of bicycles with child seats or trailers and tricycles. It was a lot of hard work for CCC volunteers to satisfy parents' desire to try out bicycles, give information to the public and give rides to local kids that never seemed to be satisfied. However, we all felt that we had given a positive contribution to the Green Fair, an event that continues to grow in size and quality.



Hamptead Heath Open Day: July 11th

Another successful participation of CCC to this annual event. Five new members joined LCC, and many signed a petition to open more cycle lanes on the Heath. It is probably time that we restart our campaign on this issue!

Photo credits to Lionel Shapiro, Stefano Casalotti and Andrew Conway

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