

The "Camden Cyclist"

June/July '05 Newsletter of Camden Cycling Campaign

Camden
Cycling
Campaign

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Dates for your Diary

Members meetings: June 13th and July 11th

In the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Street, NW1 at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of each month. Bring your bike inside for security.

Green Fair and Bikefest Sunday 5 June

12 noon - 18:00. In Regents Park. It's World Environment Day. Many 'green' organisations will be there and we have arranged to close Chester Road to motor traffic so you can try different bicycles in relative safety. We will be at the Broad Walk/Chester Road junction. We need many volunteers to help us. Please contact Stefano: s.casalotti@ucl.ac.uk.

Bike Week June 11th - 19th

Dr. Bike West Hampstead. Sat. 11 June

12 midday-4.30 pm Dr. Bike will be outside West Hampstead Library (junction of Dennington Park Road/West End Lane). A check-up for your bike with free advice. Contact: James - 020 7267 3585

World Naked Bike Ride (not CCC) Sat. 11 June

See <http://www.worldnakedbikeride.org/uk/london/route> for further details!

Ride through London parks and open spaces

Sun. 12 June

Meet at 10am outside Interchange Centre, (old Town Hall) Haverstock Hill, (100m uphill from Belsize Park tube station) We'll visit some of London's parks and open spaces, having lunch in one of the park cafes (or perhaps in a pub). Finish by 5pm. Contact: James - 020 7267 3585

Members meeting Monday 13th . 7.30 pm

John Adams will speak on 'The Management of Road Safety: Risk Compensation Versus the Obedient Automaton Theory of Human Behaviour'

Ever wondered why 'accident' statistics have not improved, despite proliferation of 'road safety' measures? Risk compensation is at work. Find out how risks are handled in the real world. This eminent, amusing international expert will enlighten, educate & shock you!

John Adams is Professor of Geography at UCL & author of 'Risk and Freedom'

Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Free Cyclists Breakfast Weds. 15 June, 8-10am

Ossulston Street outside the new British Library (just off Euston Road). Come to meet with cyclists and celebrities at this popular event which is now in its 10th year. Contact Jane. 020 7794 9708

TfL BikeFest in Trafalgar Square. Sun 19 June

Meet at 11.45 at the Interchange Centre, Haverstock Hill, (previously Old Town Hall) (100m uphill from Belsize Park tube station) Contact David Arditti d@davidarditti.co.uk or 020 8204 3999

Other Rides

Critical Mass: Fridays 24 June & 29 July.

Suburban Breakout Audax: 100km from East Finchley, Sun 10 July. Contact saddlesore@blueyonder.co.uk

Cyclists' Tea

CCC stalwarts braved the rain and gave out tea and biscuits to passing cyclists in Byng Place.



Jean Dollimore

April Members' Meeting

David Dansky, staff manager at Cycle Training UK gave a talk at our April members meeting.

CTUK's aim is to normalise cycling - show that anyone can do it, that no special gear needed. David asked for our memories of the cycle test and contrasted it with the CTUK approach of teaching road skills. He told us that he was changed by the training he received on joining CTUK three and a half years ago.

He then took us through the phases through which CTUK brought its trainees.

Many thanks to David for very interactive talk which was enjoyed by everyone present. Our only regrets are that more of our members didn't manage to come to join us in this experience. Jean Dollimore

May Members' Meeting

With CTUK's Dr Bikes merrily attending to our machines in the background, we discussed what should be our priorities for the coming year. Campaigning for better provision in parks and open spaces featured highly. We emphasised how obstructive the Parks Authorities had been.

The mechanics' activities made us consider whether we should be holding more maintenance workshops, possibly in Community Centres etc. We are concerned about getting enough volunteers for this.

With LCC, we want to enhance cycling to the work place. We will continue to press to improve conditions for cycling to school and support training for children. We support 20mph speed limits throughout Camden. Cycle storage in residential areas is still problematic and we will continue to press for improvements. We will continue with our work to campaign for and give feedback on cycle facilities. The Camden part of the Seven Stations Link is almost complete. Our input will be needed on Link 27, from Tottenham Court Road to Tuffnell Park.

Calmer Camden High Street?

Transportation Professional May 2005, the magazine of the IHT, reports that Surveyor 21 April said:

TfL plans to restrict vehicle speed on Camden High Street in north London to a maximum of 20 mph. Signals would allow slow moving traffic to flow smoothly but would force vehicles travelling at higher speeds to keep stopping.

Watch this space!

Cycle Route Disruption (again!)

Redevelopment of the College Arms on Royal College Street has blocked the two way cycle route just north of the junction with Crowndale Road. CCC was neither informed nor consulted about this. One of Camden's premier cycle routes is now almost useless here. We are very concerned about possible conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.



Paul Gasson

RoadPeace Annual Lecture

RoadPeace is a charity which supports victims of road crashes, and campaigns for justice for crash victims and for genuine road safety.

Road Crime - A Neglected Social Justice and Public Health Challenge was the title of The RoadPeace annual lecture, which was given by Ian Roberts, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to an audience of cycling activists, road safety campaigners and Police & local government officers.

Professor Roberts observed that there is a strong relationship between social class and risk of road death and injury. So while the benefits of motor travel are primarily enjoyed by the better-off, the burden of the consequences falls primarily on poorer people. He showed how spending on the prevention and treatment of road injuries, and hence the quantity of research, lags far behind that for other public health issues in relation to the scale of damage done. The Department for Transport spends less than 1% of its budget on road safety, and Professor Roberts attacked the government target to reduce road casualties by 40% by 2010, which would still leave 26,000 deaths and serious injuries per year in the UK.

Professor Roberts was keen to put the issue in the international context. 90% of road casualties occur in the developing world, and road safety is therefore a development issue. While the developed world including the UK has seen an apparent safety improvement, this is basically attributable to the decline in the number of non-motorised road users on the streets, which has major implications for levels of physical activity, for obesity, and thus disease. Responses to the problem in terms of 'road-safety education' can be shown to be ineffective - groups of young people who have had road safety education actually suffer more injuries than control groups. What does work is limiting speeds through better road design and enforcement, and reducing traffic volumes by reducing the need to travel, and by measures such as the London Congestion Charge.

The lecture was warmly welcomed by nearly all those present, but it was disappointing not to see any politicians in the audience, apart from Green GLA member Jenny Jones. The coincidence with the General Election campaign was clearly unfortunate.

You can find out more about the work of RoadPeace from www.roadpeace.org.

David Arditti

Can You Help?

James Brander is building up a list of external publicity contacts. If you are professionally involved in any activity where you can promote CCC's activities, please contact him.