

The "Camden Cyclist"

June/July '06 Newsletter of Camden Cycling Campaign

Camden
Cycling
Campaign

Editor (for this newsletter): Jean Dollimore

Web site at: www.camdencyclists.org.uk

Mailing list: CamdenCyclingCampaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Dates for your Diary

Members meetings: June 12th and July 10th

at 7.30 pm on the second Monday of each month.

June 12th: At Hampstead Parochial School, Hollybush Vale, NW3 6TX. The entrance is just past the Everyman Cinema. The gate will be open – there is a bike shed and some racks.

Speaker Matt Seaton: the journalist who writes the regular 'Two Wheels' column in the Guardian.

Matt Seaton will talk about the culture of cycling, why it matters and what we can do to boost it. Cycling to school is an example of that. A short talk will be followed by questions and discussion.

July 10th: At the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Street, NW1 8RU. Bring your bike inside for security.

Bike Fest and Camden Green Fair: 4th June

Noon-6pm in Regents Park. It's the fifth year of Bikefest, the third time with Green Fair, and the second time in Regents Park. This combination was most successful last year and we plan to have even more space and activities this time, including Dr. Bike, childrens cycling and interesting bikes on display by Bike Fix and Velorution. Contact Stefano Casalotti. See www.camdengreenfair.uk.com/

Bike Week June 17th - 25th



Sat 17th June. Dr. Bike West Hampstead

12 midday- 5 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 Brander.

Wed 21st June. Free Cyclists Breakfast

8-10 am. Ossulston Street outside the British Library (just off Euston Road). Come to meet with other cyclists and celebrities at this popular event, which is now in its 11th year. Contact Jane Boardman.

Sun 25th June. Olympic Ride

10.30 am- 5 pm. Pedal across to the Olympic site in East London, where we hope to meet up with groups from other Boroughs to do a tour of the area. We'll return via the Lea Valley route. Pub lunch and tea stop. Meet outside the Interchange studio on Haverstock Hill (100 m up from Belsize Park tube station) at 10.30 am. Contact James Brander. 30 miles. Gently paced.



July Rides

Sun July 2nd. Country lanes ride by Thameslink

Meet at 10:15 under the canopy outside Kentish Town tube station for the 10:36 Thameslink train to Harpenden. Or meet us at Harpenden at 11.11. Train stops at West Hampstead, etc. We'll get lunch at a pub and find somewhere for tea. Contact George Coulouris, george AT colouris.net. 30 miles. Gently paced.

Sat 8th to Sun 9th July. Dunwich Dynamo

This overnight marathon cycle ride is led by Barry Mason of Southwark Cyclists. See the webpage at: www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk/dunwichfaq.htm

If a group from Camden wants to go, we could arrange our own return transport. Contact Richard Fletcher if you might be interested.

Rides Program

Richard Fletcher, who joined the committee at the April AGM, has agreed to become Rides Coordinator. CCC will have a ride each month from May to October. The list of the dates and details of these rides is on our website at:

www.camdencyclists.org.uk/rides06

You can also check the rides and events list in the panel on the home page from time to time. Details of the June ride to the Olympic site and the July ride in country lanes are given above. Other summer rides will include one on the Thames towpath to Richmond and a longer ride to Rye. Contact Richard if you'd like to organise a ride.

On our rides webpage, we also plan to list rides run by other groups that we might participate in, for example, the Little Green Ride (See London Cyclist) or the Central London CTC rides which start from a London station and ride through some part of the country accessible by train, with lunch and tea stops. AS an example, see the details for the Dunwich Dynamo above.

Festivals in Camden

CCC will have a stall at the following festivals – hope to see you there. Offers to do Dr. Bike or help on a stall will be welcome.

Sat 10th June. Calthorpe Garden Festival

Noon-6pm. Festival at Calthorpe Project. Contact James.

Sat 17th June. Primrose Hill on the Move

2-5pm. Festival in Chalcot Square Gardens. Contact Jean.

Sat 15th July. Swiss Cottage Festival

11am - 7pm. Eton Avenue, NW3. Contact James Brander.

Volunteers

We rely on members to help at the many summer events. Please contact Stefano to help with Bike Fest, Jane for the Cyclists Breakfast or James to help with Dr Bike or the person named above to help with our stall at one of the festivals. *Committee contact details are at the end of the newsletter.*

Report on the AGM - 10th April

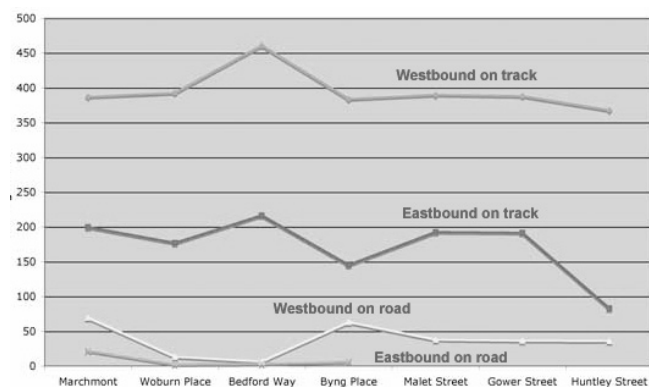
We held our AGM at Primrose Hill Community Centre. After the coordinators' and treasurer's reports, we unanimously adopted a new constitution based on the LCC model with improvements and updates to our rules.

We debated whether to change our name to *Camden Cyclists* and become more social with more membership participation. But our current name indicates the link with LCC. We could use the name *Camden Cyclists* to organise social events and see how it goes. We agreed to stick with *Camden Cycling Campaign* and possibly revisit the issue at the next AGM.

Election of Coordinators Jean Dollimore and Stefano Casalotti were unanimously re-elected as Joint Co-ordinators.

Election of Committee Members The following members of the Committee were willing to stand again: Jane Boardman, James Brander (Treasurer), John Chamberlain, Meade McCloughan (Secretary) and Helen Vecht (Newsletter Editor). In addition, Anne Boston and Richard Fletcher had indicated their willingness to join the committee. All the above were unanimously elected*.

Cycle counts on the SSL



LB Camden carried out cycle counts from 6th-10th Feb 2006 at 7 locations on Tavistock Place and Torrington Place, to the west of the junction with each of the roads on the chart. Counts were recorded for intervals of 15 minutes between 7-10 am and 4-7 pm. The above chart shows the average figures for the 3 hour AM period. PM figures were similar, (with eastbound and westbound exchanged): eastbound on the track peaking at about 450 and westbound at about 250.

Cycle Maintenance Workshops



CCC recently held a series of 3 cycle maintenance workshops at Velorution. Contact Jean if you would like to attend the next series. *Photo: Andrew Conway.*

Talk by Lynn Sloman (after AGM)



Photo: Lionel Shapiro

Extracts from report by Meade McCloughan (see website):

Lynn has been a transport campaigner for 14 years, with organizations such as the Camden Transport Forum, Transport 2000 and most recently Cycling England. Her book, *Car Sick: Solutions for Our Car-Addicted Culture*, has just been published.

Lynn is on the board of Cycling England, whose job is to get more people cycling, more safely and more often. She said the UK spends too little on cycling - about £1 per citizen per year, far less than in the better continental European cities, where it is £5 - £10. York and London are better than average at £4 and £3.

CE is directing funding of £5 million a year to: i) youth projects including training; ii) generic local authority support; and iii) six cycling demonstration towns: Brighton, Darlington, Derby, Exeter, Lancaster and Aylesbury.

Lynn then spoke about her new book. In this she emphasizes that car dependency is a very recent phenomenon - since the 1950s there has been a 1500% increase in traffic levels. This is a direct result of specific policies and government actions, in particular motorway building and the development of out-of-town supermarkets, retail parks and multiplex cinemas.

Lynn concluded on an optimistic note: she believes that the kind of social change she is advocating is possible and can come about through a combination of top-down initiatives (e.g. Cycling England) and bottom-up enthusiasm and endeavour (e.g. CCC and the rest).

Many questions followed Lynn's packed and stimulating talk. Mayer Hillman argued that Lynn's strategy was too long-term to address excess carbon consumption and that more drastic action needed to be taken. Lynn replied that she was not just recommending ways of making existing journeys differently but also suggesting that fewer journeys ought to be made. If carbon rationing is to be brought in it will be important to get people to agree to it, and her approach would help with this.

*Paul Gannon agreed to remain on the committee after the AGM