

# The "Camden Cyclist"

October/November 06 Camden Cycling Campaign Newsletter

Camden  
Cycling  
Campaign

Editor: Helen Vecht

Website at: [www.camdencyclists.org.uk](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk)

Mailing list: [CamdenCyclingCampaign-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:CamdenCyclingCampaign-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Photo Gallery: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/camdencyclists/>

## Dates for your Diary

### Members' meetings:

Are held on the second Monday of each month, at 7.30pm. We hold a Business Meeting for our Committee one hour beforehand. All members are welcome to both parts of the meeting, if interested. Meetings will be at Castlehaven Community Centre, 33 Hawley Road, NW1 8RU for the rest of 2006. From January 2007, we will meet at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place, London NW1 8TN

**9 October 2006.** **Simon Brammer** LCC Director will be our Guest Speaker and talk about 'active spectatorship' of sport and the Olympics (Castlehaven CC)

**13 November 2006 7.30pm** Monthly meeting at Castlehaven

### Ride in the Chilterns NB Date Change

**1 October 2006.** 30 miles. Leader: Sela Yair. Taking 10:18 train to Princes Risborough from London Marylebone arriving at 11:02. Hope there will be no engineering works at that weekend. It's a hilly ride, but only one very tough hill, which Sela has managed to cycle. Pub lunch stop at Fingest.

Meet Sela Yair at Marylebone Station 0945

Contact Email [sela@sela-v.com](mailto:sela@sela-v.com)

Contact Phone 07900307025

### Thames towpath ride

**08-Oct-2006 from 10:30 to 18:30** About 40 miles, and lunch will be at the pub in Mortlake (Youngs). One amazingly steep hill but otherwise quite reasonable. Tea stop on Wimbledon Common, hopefully

Meet: Interchange studio (Old Town Hall) on Haverstock Hill (100 m uphill from Belsize Park tube station)

Contact: James Brander. Phone: 020 7267 3585

### Maintenance Workshops

We are delighted to announce that there will be another course of three Saturday afternoon workshops this autumn on Saturdays 7 October, 4 November and 2 December from 1400-1700 at Velorution, 18 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 8BD. Sessions cost £10 each. Contact Jean Dollimore ([jeanATdollimoreDOTnet](mailto:jeanATdollimoreDOTnet)) to book a place.

**Booking is essential.**

### Apologies

To all CCC members who did not receive their Newsletter last time. A change of staff at LCC Office and failure of communication between us were to blame. It should not happen again.

Those who wish to read the August/September newsletter can find it online at:

[www.camdencyclists.org.uk/info/newsletters/aug06%20nl.pdf](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/info/newsletters/aug06%20nl.pdf)

## Tour of Britain comes to Camden



Lionel Shapiro

This photo is at Adelaide Road

Amidst somewhat chaotic traffic management, the Tour of Britain zipped through Camden's streets on 3 September. The formed a counter-clockwise loop taking in Primrose Hill, 'King of the Mountains' Highgate West Hill, passing through the pinch point at the Spaniards Inn and whipping down Heath Street & Finchley Road, past Regent's Park to the finale round the perimeter of St James's Park



Jean Dollimore

This shows the group passing The Spaniards Inn

## Share the Road?!

Having been implored by our Mayor to share the road with other road users, our itinerant photographer Lionel Shapiro found his meagre cycle lane obstructed by a Police Community Support Officer's scooter.

The Police have long abused cycle facilities this way. (I have a slide showing a Police car obstructing a cycleway taken on Bike to Work Day 1994.) Apparently they are allowed so to do 'in the course of their duties' This photo is taken on a Red Route (for those of you with black & white newsletters...)

The joint statement on sharing the road is at: <http://www.lcc.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=1080>



Lionel Shapiro

Meanwhile, in Telford, a cyclist has been prosecuted for cycling on a dual carriageway 'forcing motorists to cross double white lines to overtake him'. He is appealing as we go to press

[www.ctc.org.uk/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=4516](http://www.ctc.org.uk/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=4516)

## Heath Cycling

We would like to be able to cycle slowly and lawfully on a few more paths across the Heath. This could aid kids on their way to school, reducing motor traffic and parking problems in Hampstead.

This is detailed on our webpage:

[www.camdencyclists.org.uk/camden/campaigns/heath0506](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/camden/campaigns/heath0506)

The matter has caused much heated debate in the local Press. It seems many of those that write letters have had dreadful experience of 'Lycra Louts' and are very hostile to the idea of permitting any more cycling.

The Ham and High held an online poll, asking its readers whether they thought cycling on the Heath should be increased, remain the same or be reduced. 54% thought that it should be increased.. [www.tinyurl.co.uk/ag1e](http://www.tinyurl.co.uk/ag1e)

A selection of August's Letters appears on: [www.tinyurl.co.uk/t7me](http://www.tinyurl.co.uk/t7me)

One more recent letter to the Ham & High ([www.tinyurl.co.uk/vayg](http://www.tinyurl.co.uk/vayg)) concludes thus: "Oh, and the Camden Cycling Campaign should still be taken out and shot."

This sort of attitude, however 'humorous' neither fosters mature debate nor encourages sensible cycling.

Our campaigners are described by Bill Waugh in the Camden New Journal as 'modern, self-absorbed vandals'... [www.tinyurl.co.uk/8d1x](http://www.tinyurl.co.uk/8d1x)

The reality is very few serious injuries are caused by cyclists hitting pedestrians. Near misses are common and memorable; people don't remember (non-)encounters with courteous, considerate cyclists anything like as intensely as a 'close encounter'.

Meanwhile, we are working on the possible provision of a cycle track alongside Spaniards Road, with much less opposition, as different ruling bodies are involved.

## Other Groups' Rides

**Brent** is holding

Sun 22/10/06 Family Frolic: 7 - 10 miles to Gladstone Park

Sat 18/11/06 Chiltern Chiffchaff: 37 miles and every one a gem

Details on: [www.brentcyclists.org.uk](http://www.brentcyclists.org.uk)

Clashing with Sela's ride, the CTC has a 100km Chiltern Brevet Populaire starting from Naphill on 1 October and off-road rides from Brickendon on the same date.

Details are on [www.tinyurl.co.uk/vosq](http://www.tinyurl.co.uk/vosq)