

The Camden Cyclist

February/March 2008 Camden Cycling Campaign Newsletter

Camden
Cycling
Campaign

Editor: Helen Vecht

Website at: www.camdencyclists.org.uk

Mailing list: CamdenCyclingCampaign-subscribe@yahoo.com

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

Cycle Route maps: <http://maps.camdencyclists.org.uk>

Dates for your Diary

Monthly Meetings

These are held at 7.30pm on the second Monday every month at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place, (off Fitzroy Road) London NW1 8TN.

We hold a business/committee meeting an hour before the main meeting, at 6.30pm, to which all interested members are welcome. The next meetings are on:

11 February 2008

10 March 2008. A Guest Speaker is planned. Please check the website for details.

14 April 2008

12 May 2008. Our AGM. Camden Cyclists always welcomes help, however minor, from anyone willing. We'll review last year's progress and vote in our Committee.

A Writer Reads...



Lionel Shapiro

Sean French entertained Camden Cyclists at our December meeting, when he read from his new book, *Until It's Over*, co-written with his wife Nicci Gerrard. (Nicci French is their joint pen name.) This was followed by our customary seasonal social.

Barnet Cyclists' Ride

Sunday 16th March: The Wonders of Welwyn

Join Barnet Cyclists for an easy paced jaunt round the lanes of Hertfordshire. Approx 30 miles. Meet at McDonalds at the front of the Howard Centre (Railway Station), Welwyn Garden City ready for 11am departure. Leader will meet you here. Lunch at pub/cafe & afternoon tea stop.

Trains:	Kings Cross:	Welwyn GC
(Fast)	10.06	10.31 (time for coffee!).
(Slow)	10.11	10.51.

Ride leader: Alison Ewington 01707 376 282 (mobile on the 16th 07732 367 574)

Join LCC!

Camden Cycling Campaign is a London Cycling Campaign Local Borough Group.

Membership of LCC includes: Free third party insurance, Legal advice, Discounts at bike shops Discounts on Maintenance and Training courses, Bimonthly London Cyclist magazine Local Group Membership and more. Ring 020 7234 9310 (Mon-Fri 10am-5pm) or visit: <http://www.lcc.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=27> to join.

Membership costs £32 per year (£14 concessions, £23 additional members at same address) 3 months extra membership if paid by Direct Debit

Camden's Cycling Champion!



Cllr. Paul Braithwaite, a long-time member of Camden Cyclists has been appointed Cycling Champion for Camden. He always comes to CCC meetings when he's free and regularly champions cycling causes at the council's walking, cycling, road safety action group (WCRSAG).

Paul is indefatigable when there are road closures and interruptions to cycle routes without arrangements for cyclists. He has also been persistent in issues of road safety, for example, attending with CCC a meeting with TfL and Camden Council concerning the Euston Road intersection with Route 6, as well as pursuing issues at Swiss Cottage gyratory.

On another note, on the last day of Bike Week, Paul organised the Camden Peripherique, a ride round the boundary of the borough with police escort and very good attendance. We hope with Paul that this will be a regular event. You can read more about it at: Report on the Camden Peripherique: <http://tinyurl.com/ypv88a>

Perhaps Paul's greatest achievement so far is that he encouraged Camden to apply for TfL Greenway funding to pay for the building of the Agar Grove - Camley Street cycle and pedestrian link, within the next year.

This link was consulted on in October and was approved by Camden Council after a struggle last week. CCC has

campaigned for this link since 2002, when they commissioned Tom Young to write a feasibility report. But although Camden Council supported the idea, there was no prospect of funding in the near future until the Greenway funding was obtained earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Paul is working hard to get a source of funding for another link - a bridge from Wharfedale Road over the railway tracks at Kings Cross Station. Network Rail has accepted its feasibility but the cost will be £6 million.

Jean Dollimore

Ballantine's Golden Rules of Bike Buying

- Look only at bikes that fit you. It does not matter what marvellous thing a bike is, if it does not fit you, it is no use.
- Prize light weight above all else. No matter what is said about features or bells and whistles, first thing, pick up a bike and see how light (or heavy!) it is. At even money between a new but heavy bike and a used but light bike with OK mechanics, I'd go for the used. Every time. Light weight first!
- Like the bike. Riding is about how well you get on with a bike, not the number of features it has, or a value-for-money price tag. Out of any given group of prospective bikes, best is the one you like the most.

From CITY CYCLING by Richard Ballantine (author of the classic Richard's Bicycle Book), Snowbooks Ltd, 2007, £9.99, tel: 020 7837 6482.

...& St Pancras Local

First Capital Connect (who run the trains on the line previously known as Thameslink) opened their new station on December 9 2007. Access by bicycle is not easy, as Jean discovered on a visit that day. It was easier to park a bicycle at the crowded Kings Cross Suburban station than to trek to the car park at St Pancras.

Her report is on: <http://tinyurl.com/28qdcn>

Jean Dollimore



St Pancras International...

The protest mentioned briefly in the previous Camden Cyclist (or possibly the embarrassment caused in its anticipation) achieved an improvement in cycle parking, with the provision of 100 Sheffield stands. It should also be possible, eventually, to arrange to take your bike on the same train as which you travel.

We also achieved publicity in several national newspapers.

More details on: <http://tinyurl.com/2u7kuq>



Ralph Smyth