

# Camden Cyclist

Camden Cyclists' News October/November 2009

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

enquiries: [infoATcamdencyclists.org.uk](mailto:infoATcamdencyclists.org.uk)

emailing list: [camdencyclingcampaign-subscribeATyahooogroups.com](mailto:camdencyclingcampaign-subscribeATyahooogroups.com)



## Skyride / Freewheel

The **Mayor of London's Skyride** is the new name for the London Freewheel. You may register for this on <http://new.britishcycling.org.uk/skyride/register?event=london> (not secure)  
Camden Cyclists will run a feeder ride from Swiss Cottage.

**Meet:** Swiss Cottage, Hampstead Theatre 10.30

**Date:** Sunday 20 September

**Times:** 10.30am to afternoon

**Contact:** John or Stefano



## Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of every month, with a Committee meeting immediately beforehand.

The next meetings are on **Monday 12 October** and **Monday 9 November**  
Sam Monck, Head of Street Policy, LB Camden will be **Guest Speaker** for our October meeting.

**Meet:** Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN

**Dates:** 12 October 2009

9 November 2009

**Times:** 18.30 Business/ Committee meeting

19.30 Members' Meeting

**Contact:** [JeanATdollimore.net](mailto:JeanATdollimore.net)

## Cycle Fridays

The Mayor's Cycle Fridays scheme runs until 2 October.

Experienced cyclists will lead you from a Tube station into central London. Our nearest meets at Swiss Cottage and runs to Holborn but there are other radial routes. The TfL website gives more details.

**Meet** Swiss Cottage outside theatre  
**Times** 8am every Friday until 2 October

**More info:**

[www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/cycling/12293.aspx](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/cycling/12293.aspx)



## Belsize Green Fair

Camden Cyclists will have a stall, also "Foraging and cooking wild food, local food products, fruit tree mapping, bike repairs, electric bikes, tricycles, natural cosmetics, composting workshop, cob wall building, pizza from a cob oven, story-telling, films, debates, farmyard animals, a 5km Fun Run, climate change games, music, fun."

**Where:** west side Haverstock Hill between Old Town Hall and Belsize Grove.

**When:** Saturday 26 September 10.00-17.00

**More info:**

[www.meetup.com/TransitionBelsize/calendar/10619782/](http://www.meetup.com/TransitionBelsize/calendar/10619782/)

**Contact:** [stefanoATlamsam-casalotti.org.uk](mailto:stefanoATlamsam-casalotti.org.uk)



## Major Permeability Milestone

A major triumph in achieving cyclists' permeability occurred on 7 August 2009 when the Agar Grove/Camley Street link was opened after many years of planning and campaigning. This provides access to St Pancras, the Camley Street Nature Reserve and the British Library.



Councillor Paul Braithwaite fittingly performed the opening ceremony, accompanied by Chris Knight, local residents and many workers.

The complicated and protracted story is on our website on [www.camdencyclists.org.uk/newsitems/ccc/agar-camley-08-09](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/newsitems/ccc/agar-camley-08-09) and the final result is a tribute to campaigners and councillors.

Peter Willis (pictured below) and Paul Gannon were the initiators of the scheme.



Lionel Shapiro

## Cycle Highways

We have recently learned more about the Mayor's proposed Cycle Highways. There is one proposed for Camden's western border, Highway 11 from Marble Arch to some unspecified point on the A5. Initial proposals for the Highways, outlined in the TfL slideshow have been watered-down. Side road closures will not now be considered, there will be few changes to parking and loading arrangements and part-time operation of combined bus and cycle lanes will continue. Even that the famous blue paint is now in doubt!

The Highways are on a very tight timetable, the first two are scheduled to be 'completed' by next May! Highway 11 is in the second group, probably to be completed in 2011. A consultation process has already been carried out by TfL on the first two routes with local LCC activists. Their reports that have left LCC extremely unhappy. Most of the Highway interventions suggested by cyclists have been ruled out. It seems that, far from the Mayor's initial promises that 'cyclists will dominate' on these routes and that they will 'whisk cyclists into central London', the results will again be very low priority for cyclists, with the roads remaining essentially unchanged, on grounds of 'maintaining [motor vehicle] capacity'. It is hard to see how the £160 million earmarked for the Highways is actually going to be spent, except more consultants' fees.

Brent and Camden Cyclists have jointly produced an initial assessment of the potential of Highway 11 on the A5 from Marble Arch to West Hendon and submitted this to LCC and TfL. We have been involved with cycle studies of the A5 before, the last for the LCN+ programme in 2004, which achieved little apart from a few blue signs giving mileages to Edgware plus some logos painted on the slip roads at Staples Corner. While we would love a decent cycle route on the A5, we note that to create one needs serious area-wide traffic re-engineering to displace or deter general traffic from using this highly congested road, major changes to junctions to make them safe for cyclists, and much tighter controls on parking and loading. Because these seem very unlikely, Brent, Camden and Westminster Cyclists would prefer the money to be spent on alternative routes: for example improving the existing LCN route via Hamilton Terrace, which parallels Maida Vale, and developing a western alternative route to the A5 through Brent, crossing the North Circular west of the Welsh Harp, for which we already have produced quite detailed plans.

David Arditti

## Hot Herts

George led 16 riders through Hertfordshire's lanes on a very hot August day. Starting from St Albans station, the ride initially used tracks, visited several eateries and finished at Harlington station. Several riders suffered punctures but Emily's Tea Rooms even sold bike parts! There's a detailed report on [www.camdencyclists.org.uk/newsitems/ccc/herts-beds-ride-2009](http://www.camdencyclists.org.uk/newsitems/ccc/herts-beds-ride-2009)