

# Camden Cyclist

Camden Cyclists' News June/July 2011

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## Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are now held on the **third Monday** of every month. **Next meetings:**  
**Monday 20 June 2011, 7.30pm** Possible bike ride/pub run to celebrate Bike Week. Please check our website.

**Monday 18 July 2011, 7.30pm**

Meetings are held at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN. We hold a committee/business meeting at 6.30pm, to which all interested cyclists are welcome.

## Summer Events

**London Greenfair and Bikefest** runs for the weekend of 4-5 June, from midday to 6pm on both days.

There will be Dr Bike sessions

Cycle maintenance workshops

Slow bicycle races

On Sunday, recumbents and tricycles should be available to try. There'll also be electric and 'green' cars.



The Bikefest takes place on a closed section of Chester Road, between the Inner and Outer Circle of Regent's Park.

The Greenfair will be in the park itself. The London Bicycle Music Festival will provide almost continuous human-powered music. There'll be speakers on environmental issues, ethical fashion, a children's area and more.

[www.londongreenfair.org](http://www.londongreenfair.org)

## Bike Week 18-26 June

Our annual festival of cycling kicks off on **Saturday 18 June** with Dr Bike at Parliament Hill Farmers' Market at William Ellis School, NW5 1RN, from 10am to 2pm. Keen mechanics from Camden Cyclists will check and fettle your bike **free**.

**Monday 20 June Meeting Mystery.** After our Committee meeting, we may ride to refreshments at a Camden watering hole. Dr Bike may drop in to ensure your mount is in tip-top condition. Wise up at our website.



**Free Cyclists' Breakfast** on Wednesday 22 June from 8-10am. Indulge in croissants and chat with cyclists (some famous) on Ossulston Street, by the junction of Brill Place NW1.



**Dr Bike** will appear again on Thursday 23 June, from 4.30 -7.30pm. This will be by the Ready Money Drinking Fountain, on the Broad Walk in Regent's Park, north of Chester Road.

## All Around Camden

Paul Braithwaite is leading the fifth annual cyclists' circumnavigation of Camden, as the finale for Bike Week. This 22 mile ride initially goes around Camden's periphery, with the final 5 miles taking in the 'heart' of the borough. Police officers will accompany this ride. Lunch is at Golders Hill Park. Meet 10am, 26 June at Bidborough Street, behind Camden Town Hall WC1H 9JE. Attend early, at 9.30, if you wish to have Dr Bike give your bike a check-up. Finish at Hampstead Old Town Hall.



## Summer Rides

**Sunday 10 July.** James will lead a ride through London's parks. Meet 10.45 to leave at 11am by the Garden Cafe, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, for a short (15 miles max) ride through London's parks and open spaces. Lunch at a park cafe, or bring your own. Easy pace, suitable for families. Return by 4pm.

**Sunday 24 July.** George is leading a ride into the Chilterns, hopefully from Chesham. There are details including a map of the planned route at <http://goo.gl/maps/CoU6>  
The ride is about 26 hilly miles long and subject to change up to the day before. Meet Finchley Road Station 10.20am for 10.37 Met Line train to Chesham (arr. 11.21). Lunch stop planned at a well-known beauty spot. Please check web page on 23 July for any last minute changes. George's mobile: 07879 887663 (Use on the day only, please email 'george at coulouris.net' for queries beforehand.)

## Inspection Rides

Camden Cyclists have now held three rides examining the good and bad points of local infrastructure. There's a full report of April's ride on <http://tinyurl.com/3lamxce> and a more detailed, illustrated write-up on <http://tinyurl.com/3zegxel> (7MB download) It was gratifying to see that No Entry signs with 'Except cycles' plates had been erected on Princess Road. These are much less ambiguous than the standard 'No motor vehicles' sign but need DfT approval.



## Air Quality

Paul Braithwaite, Camden's Cycling Champion and long-time CCC member, addressed our Annual Meeting about Air Quality. Jean's full report is on <http://tinyurl.com/3rdfsfh>. In summary, London is exceeding EU standards for vehicle emissions, especially on arterial routes. Euston Road consistently breaches EC directives for PM10s. The most worrying pollutants are the PM 2.5s which are small particles that can enter the blood stream. Particulate pollutants are largely the products of diesel engines. Black cabs apparently cause 30% of London's particulate problem and do not all have efficient filters.

There might be 100 excess deaths in Camden every year as a result of poor air quality. London stands to be penalised by both the EU and the Olympic Delivery Authority if air quality is not improved rapidly.

Paul suggested:

Greater control over taxis, particularly over queuing and idling at mainline stations and a possible scrappage incentive scheme to retire older, cabs.

TfL should set up a hot line for Londoners to report buses and black cabs with sooty exhausts. Black smoke means filtration is not working. Encouraging clean fuel bio-methane engines and electric vehicles

A new real-time visual display giving air quality on the Euston Road beside the Town Hall