

Camden Cyclist

Camden Cyclists' News October/November 2011

Website: www.camdencyclists.org.uk

Enquiries: info@camdencyclists.org.uk

emailing list: camdencyclingcampaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are now held on the **third** Monday of every month. **Next meetings:**

Monday 17 October

Christian Wolmar, Britain's leading transport commentator, will be our Guest Speaker. Christian has written columns in the Evening Standard, Daily Telegraph and elsewhere about the roads and railways.

Monday 21 November

Members' meetings start at 7.30pm and are preceded by a business/committee meeting at 6.30pm to which any interested cyclist is welcome. We meet at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN.

Maintenance Workshops

Camden Council is continuing to sponsor our autumn maintenance workshop course. Sessions are now independently bookable and cost £30.

The course takes place at **Velorution's new address:** 93 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7NX. The first session is on Saturday 8 October, from 2-6pm and covers punctures, brakes and safety checking.

The second session is on Saturday 29 October, from 2-6pm. It covers chains, gears, cables & saddle and handlebar adjustment. Contact Stefano to arrange booking.

Inspect West Hampstead

Our next Inspection ride will cover the area around West Hampstead. It will take place on Saturday 15 October. Meet 11am West Hampstead Tube station. Lunch and debrief at a local eatery.



Royal College Street

Camden Cycling Campaign was perturbed to find that the two-way segregated cycle track on Royal College Street was closed due to nearby construction work, which was due to take about 18 months. After working with Camden Council, a temporary two-way cycle track has been reinstated.



Before



After

Doored!

An anonymous letter to the CNJ is from a cyclist who was injured by a car door that opened as he passed in West Hampstead. The finger injury he sustained has spoiled his holiday. I have seen car doors kill! Keep clear of the door zone!

<http://tinyurl.com/678s27d>

Traffic Droid

There's a cyclist who rides through Hampstead and Highgate filming dangerous motorists' behaviour, which he posts on YouTube. He styles himself The Traffic Droid and has made local and national news.

The report in the Ham & High is here:

<http://tinyurl.com/6kopk9v>

Mr Dediare appears formidable with his huge helmet cam and dark glasses!

London SkyRide

Camden Cyclists led two groups into the London SkyRide and one return trip. The turn-out was less than in previous years, possibly due to a wet weather forecast. The length of the motor traffic-free route had been curtailed.



It rained from about 1-3pm.

Many participants enjoyed the day immensely. It's a shame that many people only venture out on bicycles on one day per year, when they wear lurid tabards and need marshalling. We should strive for conditions which allow cycling every day, whilst wearing ordinary clothes.

Thanks to our many marshals and helpers!

Going Dutch

In the Netherlands, unaccompanied children, wearing ordinary clothes travel by bicycle every day. David Arditti has just returned from a field trip with the Cycling Embassy of Great Britain.



People are not deterred from cycling by hostile traffic. Cyclists of all ages and abilities, including many women travel by bicycle because it's convenient and comfortable.

Cycling in London is sufficiently uncomfortable to deter over 95% of journeys being by bicycle. In other cities, a much higher proportion of journeys are human-powered. David spoke to Camden Cyclists' August meeting arguing effectively for much better cycling infrastructure. Decent, continuous routes would do much to encourage people to use the bicycle sitting unused in many a shed. Dutch infrastructure is varied; there is no 'one size fits all' solution applied across the board. LCC has voted to 'Go Dutch' in its current campaign. We should learn from Dutch experience; some forms of infrastructure have not been successful and we should not repeat their mistakes.

Russell Square

Russell Square has returned to two way working, having been a one-way gyratory for a long time. Turning right, at the south-east corner of the square (from Southampton Row, onto the square) is difficult and hazardous.

Jean has put an annotated slide show up at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6bv84d>, which illustrates the problems.



Jean met with Camden Council officers to point out the hazards and to try and find a solution. Some changes in traffic light phasing are unlikely to happen until after the Olympic Games.

<http://tinyurl.com/5wpkn06>

Russell Square is set to become a coach station for the duration of the Games.