

Camden Cyclist

Camden Cyclists' News December 2011/January 2012

Website: www.camdencyclists.org.uk

Enquiries: info@camdencyclists.org.uk

emailing list: camdencyclingcampaign-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are usually held on the **third** Monday of every month.

December is different! We are holding **Seasonal Celebrations** at our meeting on

Monday 12 December 2011 at 7.30pm at the **Castlehaven Community Centre**

33 Hawley Road, NW1 8RU (best approached from Hawley Street –by the shop with the high rocking chair - and Hawley Road). There'll be food, drink and a chance to meet those involved with Camden Cyclists' work over the past year.



We'll be back to our usual day and place for our first meeting of the New Year, which will be on **Monday 16 January at 7.30pm** at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN.

We hold a business/committee meeting an hour before the main meeting, to which all interested cyclists are invited.

Awful Autumn

There have been several cyclists' fatalities in London over the autumn. Min Joo Lee, 24 (aka Deep Lee) was killed at the Kings Cross junction, cycling to what would have been the first day of her final year at the University of the Arts.

A Ghost Bike has been placed near the site of this crash. Jenny Jones and several other prominent campaigners attended the ceremony marking its installation.



The junction of Euston Road/Pentonville Road, Grays Inn Road and York Way has been known to be very hazardous to cyclists for several years. TfL commissioned a report from TRL on audits on pedestrian safety, in March 2008; none of its recommendations were included in a subsequent consultation in May 2011, meeting none of the London Cycle Design Standards guidelines. CCC responded. There was a non-committal letter from TfL – “We will review these junctions to determine whether there is sufficient room and it is safe to introduce new feeder lanes and ASLs for cyclists between the two lanes of traffic.” There was no suggestion that it might be safer to remove a lane and no reference to LCDS.

Boris Johnson claimed he was unaware of recommendations which may have reduced risks to cyclists in response to Mayor's Question, following the tragedies at Bow and Kings Cross. To address the apparent inaction to improve cyclists' safety both at this location and elsewhere within Camden, John Chamberlain led a delegation of cyclist to the Camden Council meeting on 7 November. This made three demands of Camden:

- 1) To make TfL conform to the LCDS (London Cycle Design Standards).-
- 2) To insist on application of the Freight Operators Recognition Scheme to all Council contracts and developments within its control.
- 3) To work with TfL on removal of gyratory systems such as those at Kings Cross and Swiss Cottage

The speeches were webcast on <http://tinyurl.com/d2b423d>

Though it may be wise to be diplomatic when working with giants, like TfL, this should not be an

excuse for compromise of standards, inertia and appeasement.

The Camden New Journal has taken the cycling safety issue to heart and published several articles and many letters on the subject.

<http://tinyurl.com/bwdvj7v>

<http://tinyurl.com/brhr2uu>

The Mayor is responding to demands for better cyclist safety by suggesting the problems can be resolved by better lorry driver and cyclist education whilst ignoring any issue that might suggest road design and infrastructure may be major factors in crash causation. He says TfL is being unfairly blamed when he reckons much blame lies with the lorry drivers. This does appear to me to be a way of avoiding serious expenditure on cycling safety.

On November 12, a large number of cyclists including prominent bloggers and 'Twitterati' rode the 'Tour du Danger' a ride linking ten of London's cycling black spots. Cllr. Paul Braithwaite, Camden's Cycling Champion, Caroline Pidgeon, AM and Simon Hughes MP were among the riders. The ride started with a minute's silence for the recent death of Svitlana Tereschenko, the Ukrainian lady killed on the Bow roundabout.



Air Quality

Camden Cyclists had a stall at the Air Quality Summit, held at Camden Town Hall on 21 November. We produced posters showing maps of levels of the most significant pollutants: particulates, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and CO₂ in different parts of Camden.

Speakers gave presentations on the public health aspects of this pollution and how the issue was being tackled. Lively discussions then followed between those in the audience who felt the sources of pollution should be curtailed and those who resisted reduction in motor traffic.

There's a report on <http://tinyurl.com/c4n9u6s>

Road Works

It is important that the continuity of cycle lanes be preserved as much as possible whilst road works take place. CCC's website has details of how cyclists' provision is to be maintained at sites on St Pancras Way on <http://tinyurl.com/coajs8b>.



Guardrails Go

TfL have removed guardrails at many sites within Camden. The Council is to reuse the metal for construction, sell it as scrap or reuse the rails. Rails are a mixed blessing for cyclists; they can provide a handhold at traffic light or can be useful for informal cycle parking. Unfortunately, they can induce traffic speeds, and have been implicated in some cyclists' deaths after collisions with HGVs as the cyclist gets pinned and trapped, with no escape route. Guardrails will be retained outside schools.

Brent Cyclists New Co-ordinator

David Arditti has now taken over as Co-ordinator of the Brent LCC group. David was on Camden Cyclists' Committee for many years until he moved to Brent, where he has been serving as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. We wish him well.

