

CAMDEN CYCLIST

Camden Cyclists' News Winter 2013

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Members' Meetings

Our meetings are usually held on the third Monday of every month at at 7.30pm, in Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN. There's a Committee/Business meeting at 6.30pm that anyone interested may attend. Next meetings:

Monday 16 December 7.30pm

Our Seasonal Celebrations! Food, drinks and chatter. A chance to catch up with people and progress over 2013.

Monday 20 January 2014

Monday 17 February 2014

Please check our website for late changes as three months is a long time between newsletters!

Agar-Camley Barriers

The Agar Grove - Camley Street dedicated cycle and pedestrian link was opened in August 2009 and it has proven to be a very useful facility. But it was marred by one defect. The anti-motorcycle barriers at each end were over-restrictive to cyclists, requiring a dismount to pass through



them. One row of railings has now been removed, making cycling possible with care.

Black November

There were six fatal cyclists' collisions in London within a fortnight in November, one of which was in Camden. Many of these have involved larger vehicles, mostly goods vehicles, though the fatal incident in Camden was with a coach. The Mayor has been long on words but short on action while. Politicians have made some extraordinary assertions, one suggesting that cyclists wear head cameras 'because they're longing to be knocked over'.

I'm Dying To go To London

I'm dying to go to London
With a camera on my head
To film my final moments
As a trucker knocks me dead

I'm dying to ride the thin blue line
Super-Highway to Hell
Around the roundabout at Bow
Where three cyclists fell

I'm dying to go to Holborn
Where they shunt us from behind
And grind us in the gutter
And leave us dead or blind

I'm dying to be a victim
That Boris Johnson can blame
I'd hate to run that red light
And live, but live in shame.

Bernard Davis

The 'Die-In' planned for 29 November outside the TfL HQ will take place just as this newsletter goes to press. The recent tragedies have sparked much mass action; one flash ride was arranged the same day as a fatal collision and one death precipitated an email bombardment.

Kentish Town Bike Maintenance

In association with Transition Kentish Town, cycle maintenance workshops will continue through the winter at Kentish Town Health Centre on

Monday 2 December 2013

Monday 6 January 2014

Monday 3 February 2014

Monday 3 March 2014

from 7-9pm at Kentish Town Health Centre, 2 Bartholomew Road London NW5 2AJ. Workshops are free but donations are welcome. Under supervision, you will be shown how to fix your bike. Tools provided. There's more information on: <http://tinyurl.com/bl9ve9u> Drinks afterwards at the Abbey Tavern. Contact jean <at> dollimore.net for more information.

Royal College Street



After years of planning, the new, improved two-way cycle tracks on Royal College Street were officially opened by the Mayor of Camden on 5 September.

Proceedings were opened by Cllr Sarah Hayward and followed by speeches from Camden Cyclists' Jean Dollimore, and Cllr Phil Jones.



This was followed by a stunt BMX performance, after which there was a track walkabout. Dr Bike then attended to sick cycles. There's a fuller report, with speakers' notes and more pictures on <http://tinyurl.com/py8dnex>

We Want Ward Work!

The 2014 Local Elections are looming and we'd like as many Camden Cyclists as possible to involve themselves with trying to secure their local candidates' commitment to the 'Asks' that emerged from LCC's AGM 2013.

There are 18 electoral wards in Camden, each with three Councillors, whose seats will be contested in the Spring. Not every 'ask' is appropriate for every ward. For example, Camden is already committed to implementing 20mph speed limits on its non-TfL streets, so we shouldn't need to repeat this.

The asks are:

- **Safe routes for schoolchildren**
- **Streets without through motor traffic**
- **Dedicated space on main roads**
- **Greenways**
- **20mph speed limits**
- **Liveable town centres**

We'd like to ask for a commitment to the ask that seems most pressing for your ward.

Steven Edwards is co-ordinating our election activities [stevenaedwards <at> talktalk.net](mailto:stevenaedwards@talktalk.net)

CyclingMikey

CyclingMikey showed us how his forward and rear-facing video cameras captured life from the saddle. Mikey mostly discards unexceptional videos but there were clear capture of close passes, potential 'left hooks', drivers using phones and other misdemeanours. I don't think he has recorded a driver breakfasting on cereal & milk



whilst at the wheel, though I have seen this, and a man shaving, from the back of a taxi!

Entering every possible variant of a dodgy driver's registration plate makes it searchable on Google. Mikey showed examples of how he had successfully 'educated' some drivers to mend their ways and how he had managed to get the Police to take action in other cases. This is important to prevent future crashes.

Mikey's channel is on:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CyclingMikey>