

# The "Camden Cyclist"

Apr / May '04 Newsletter of Camden Cycling Campaign

Camden  
Cycling  
Campaign

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## Dates for your diary

### Mon April 19th at 7.30: Note 3rd Monday

In the Castlehaven Community Centre, Hawley Street.. Members are invited to help to identify goals for the next two years and to decide on a strategy for achieving them.

### Wed May 19th at 8 pm: Electoral hustings

Come to hear views on walking and cycling from the London Assembly candidates for Camden and Barnet: Lucy Anderson, Brian Coleman, Miranda Dunn and Jonathan Simpson. In Camden Town Hall, Judd Street. CCC will provide guards in yellow tabards to keep an eye on the cycles locked up outside the Town Hall.

### Sun 25th April. Ride through Hertfordshire lanes.

Meet at Radlett Thameslink station at 10 am (or on the 9.35 train from Kentish Town) for a 35 mile ride via Sustrans route 12 to Knebworth for a lunch stop; returning via Harpenden station. For more details, contact George 020 7485 5896, 0787 988 7663, [george@coulouris.net](mailto:george@coulouris.net).

**Sun 9th May. Camden ice-cream potter.** Joint CCC and Women's Design Service ride. Meet at 11am at the New Goodfare restaurant on the corner of Parkway and Arlington Road for a laid-back potter around Camden, with regular re-fuelling by sampling ice-cream establishments the borough has on offer. Open to all, but women-led and women-centred. Contact Alix Stredwick at WDS 020 7490 5210 or 07903 606330, [astredwick@wds.org.uk](mailto:astredwick@wds.org.uk).

## Report on the AGM & party on March 8th

The main business of the annual general meeting was to hear Paul Gasson's remarks on his ten years as coordinator and his advice for the future. Paul's worst recent disappointment was the failure to get new cycle routes on Hampstead Heath. He summarised CCC's activities during his era – see 'CCC milestones' on the next page. For the future, Paul urged us first to maintain a good relationship with local politicians and council officers and secondly to consider how to use the resources we have, taking into account that TfL is reluctant to fund any more Camden-style segregated tracks (and the implications of doing nothing). Paul's third recommendation is to put more effort into increasing membership and volunteers and to include more fun in our activities. Finally Paul recommended a high-profile action on high-security cycle parking and the prevention of cycle theft.

The meeting elected Stefano Casalotti and Jean Dollimore as joint coordinators. They emphasised the need for strong support from the committee: the first step, to be taken at the April meeting, is to identify a vision and some goals for the next two years, to share out the workload and to specify points of contact for each of our activities.

The meeting elected the following members to the committee: James Brander, Jane Boardman, Paul Gannon, Paul Gasson, Daniel Glaser, Meade McCloughan. John Chamberlain became a coopted member of the committee.

Rob Jinman urged everyone to participate in the 10th anniversary of Critical Mass: starting at 6pm on 30th April.

Lucy Davis, Community Cycling Officer at LCC described her work on cycling projects to aid community development.

### Paul Gasson's standing down party

Thanks to Daniel Glaser's efficient chairmanship, the AGM finished promptly at 7.30, at which point the party got going and more members and guests arrived. A festive spirit soon emerged with the help of the wine, beer and excellent Indian snacks. We were joined by people who had worked with Paul over the years including Festus Agwu-Jones, Ralph Smyth, David Tuckwell, Colin Wing and Tom Bogdanowicz. Then we moved on to the Stag's Head where our numbers were swelled by the addition of Cllr. Gerry Harrison, Brenda Puech, Doug Amer, Sam Monck and Alex Williams. Everyone stayed until late, greatly enjoying the convivial atmosphere.

*Letter from Jane Roberts who was unable to attend the party*

Dear Paul

I am very sorry that I shall not be able to come to your party on March 8th. I have, somewhat predictably, meetings that evening in the Town Hall which I'm unable to escape, but I am sure I would rather be celebrating cycling.

It's no mean feat to have clocked up 10 years of dedication to Camden's Cycling Campaign. Your commitment to raising the profile of cycling as London's only truly sustainable mode of transport is thoroughly commendable and your party on the 8th March will deservedly celebrate your unceasing efforts and successes of the last decade.

I am therefore pleased to recognise your considerable contribution to working with Camden. Over the last 4 years or so we have managed to tackle the barriers that seemed to have prevented joint-working in earlier times and it is to the benefit of all of Camden's residents to have such an active and effective cycling campaign working for them in the Borough. But I know you are not just about lobbying the Council. As well as working at policy level and responding to traffic management proposals, you are also active in taking the message of cycling further afield by educating the wider public to leave the car at home and enjoy the benefits of a healthier lifestyle and a cleaner environment.

On a personal note, it is no secret that I am an avid cyclist and have been delighted to see the successes of many the initiatives we have undertaken such as the Camden Cycle Plan, Green Camden and "Don't Choke Camden" which have received the support and valued input of the Camden Cycling Campaign.

With best wishes for a happy celebration, Yours sincerely

Councillor Dame Jane Roberts. Leader of the Council

## Paul's CCC milestones 1994-2003

1994:

CCC relaunched, aims: to increase membership from 300 and improve cycle facilities on Camden's proposed Red Routes.

1995:

Lobbying on the state of Camden's roads helped deliver a £1,000,000 budget increase for highways maintenance.

CCC campaigns for a cycle route to avoid the planned new gyratory around St Pancras & Kings Cross as part of CTRL.

1996:

CCC 'Policy vs practice' report : despite pro-cycle policy the council was doing nothing to improve conditions for cyclists.

Support of 'Camden local transport day' by CCC and other local campaigners leads to formation of Camden Transport Forum which results in Camden's car free housing policy.

1997:

Involvement of Cllr Gerry Harrison & Cllr John Dickie for partnership working with CCC.

CCC launches 3 year strategy 'Bike 2001', which formed the basis for the council's Cycle Plan.

1998:

CCC proposes Seven Stations Link (SSL). Camden Council agrees to a feasibility study, and CCC proposes extending the 50 metre cycle track in Royal College Street to 500 metres.

CCC's web site goes live.

1999:

Work starts on the cycle track in Royal College Street.

2000:

Jon Snow opened the Royal College St cycle track in April.

Construction starts on the Seven Stations link.

CCC launches a Cycle Mentoring scheme.

2001:

Camden Council launched its Cycle Plan with 48 targets; it was copied by councils around the UK.

CCC ran its first Bikefest in Brunswick Square.

Camden Council takes over running the LCN programme.

TfL zero LCN budget for 2002: Brian Coleman says 'On the day I lobby Ken over cycle lanes, Satan will be skating to work'.

2002:

CCC and Camden Council conference on 'Raising the standards of cycling' which attracts 80 attendees.

Camden Council closes streets in Bloomsbury to create the largest Car Free Day event ever seen in Britain.

2003:

Bike Week featured a record 10 events organised by CCC and the council including the 3rd Bikefest and the 8th Breakfast.

WDS 'Cycling for Women' project to enable more women to cycle and inform policy-makers on how to make cycling easier.

CCC launches the results of a feasibility study for the proposed Camley St/Agar Grove cycle link.

ERCDDT pronounces Camden council is 'streets ahead' of most other London local authorities.

## Cyclists breakfast and survey on Feb 17th



Photo: Stefano Casalotti

CCC celebrated the first birthday of the introduction of the Congestion Charge with a cyclists breakfast in Byng Place beside the new two-way cycle track to Tavistock Place. The hot coffee, croissants and pain-au-chocolat brought in by James Brander and Clare were much appreciated by all.

Stefano Casalotti brought a fine green gazebo to protect the refreshments from the elements. Although it drizzled some of the time, we had plenty of visitors: both old friends and new.

As CCC is concerned about the safety of the new cycle track, we distributed a questionnaire to find out cyclists views. In all, 42 people of average age 36 replied, of which about one fifth were female. They were predominantly daily cyclists and regular users of this cycle track: over 90% were in favour of segregated tracks and agreed that it makes cycling better for new cyclists. This is a strong endorsement of Camden-style segregated cycle tracks, at least by their users.

Critics of the design of this section of cycle track have suggested that it is dangerous to build a 2-way cycle track on one side of a 2-way road. For example, drivers turning off Tavistock place into Tavistock Square have to look out for cyclists coming from both directions. The following table summarises cyclists opinions on the matter:

cycle tracks should be built 1-way on the same side as the motor traffic	55% agree 38% disagree
this cycle track has made cycling on this road more pleasant	83% agree 12% disagree
this cycle track has made cycling on this road safer	64% agree 29% disagree
vehicles turning across this cycle track are a serious problem	93% agree 5% disagree

In spite of the small numbers surveyed, these results appear to indicate that this particular design requires rethinking.

## CCC committee contact details

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Lorry Park? Pancras Way, photo Paul Gasson