

Pedal Power

The newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists. Issue 48, September 2005

G. C. Ceilidh

Saturday 17th December.

Join 4 fast foot-tapping fiddles, an authentic caller and 300 well-honed legs in 4 hours of irresistible dancing. Pay-bar, a free buffet and internal bike parking. Doors open at 7pm with dancing until 11pm. This will be our 4th year running the event and it is going to be the best ever.

We are taking bookings now and tickets are going fast. Bop till you drop to the sounds of the very live Muckers Irish/Scottish Celtic traditional dance music. At West Greenwich Arts Centre, 141 Greenwich High Road, London SE10 8JA.

Tickets £15/£10 concessions. Book online at www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk or for more details call Karen at 01322 311181 or e-mail greenwichceilidh@aol.com.

Thames Barrier Easy Access at Last!

Gone at last; the mysterious, easy-to-avoid barriers!

These were situated at two sections of the cycle path where it crosses the road at the Barrier's main entrance. Greenwich Council's roads contractor Beach has recently completed the two sections which had been unfinished for more than a year.

We worked with Greenwich Council and the Environment Agency which runs the Barrier to remedy this.

We want to know why cyclists are still supposed to dismount when crossing in front of the road barrier. Sigh, it's because a cyclist who fell after skidding on that section one winter tried to sue the EA because it's their land, and they don't want this to happen again.

Breakthrough at Old Naval College

After persistent campaigning by the cycle lobby, the foundation in charge of this historic site says it's ready to let cyclists ride through between the hours of dawn and dusk. For years we have had to meekly walk our wheels along the east-west road while motorised traffic was allowed to drive on. Outlaws who tried to ride were harried and harassed by the security guys.

Subject to approval by Greenwich Council and English Heritage, work may start as early as November to build a compacted gravel path along the north side of the campus now occupied by The University of Greenwich and Trinity College of Music. The path will run from the existing gate on Cutty Sark Gardens, follow the railings along the riverside, and exit via a side gate on the east side. It'll be shared use with pedestrians; and the £110,000 job should be finished by next spring as part of a major landscaping project on the world heritage site.

There's no plan to let cyclists use the main thoroughfare, but motor vehicles may be further restricted in the future.

David Harris, the Foundation's director of operations, told Pedal Power the overall plan included restoring the gardens to the 19th century Hardwick design, featuring parterres and wide paths, resurfacing the hopelessly potholed Broadway, returfing the main squares and tackling the badly neglected trees.

"The Foundation intends to build the shared use path as part of this," he said, adding that before work could start, Greenwich Council needed to give planning approval and English Heritage had to agree to various aesthetic aspects of the work.

Rides and Events

With so many articles this month there isn't space to list all the rides! Please check out the ride schedules for September and October on each of the local borough groups' websites:

www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk ; www.lewishamecyclists.net ; www.southwarkeycyclists.org.uk

All the Greenwich-organised rides and events, unless stated otherwise, are 'turn up and go' and start from 'CSG' (Cutty Sark Gardens, by the river in Greenwich). Please feel free to come along.

Cycle Show 14 - 16 October 2005

Come and see what's new for cyclists in 2006

Excellent selection of new bikes and accessories. Particularly good for women looking for suppliers of cycling gear tailor made for women. Although you can't purchase directly from the exhibitors, you can place an order. Don't pass up on the fashion show! Check out Greenwich website for organised group ride to the show. Special discounts for admission available for LCC and CTC members.

Ride after work - and a Pint?

Tuesday's after worker had a number of twists for 5 of us to tell. Right at the onset David found a wallet at Cutty Sark Gardens. Being the nice people we are we found a phone number in the wallet and called to say we had found owners wallet who happened to be call Deidre. As we couldn't get hold of her right away, we rode to the Prince of Wales pub at Blackheath. During our first tipples we had a call from Deidre which led to a celebratory 2nd pint.

The pond outside the Prince of Wales has now been turned into a nondescript cement enclosure. Hopefully something that can be done to restore the pond to its former character.

Having finished at the PoW, Julian our chair had to leave. We rode on to the Anchor and Hope for a tasty meal and a glass of wine, all for a fiver! This special is available on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

We had strange encounter with a cyclist who rode all the way from North London to join us for this treat. Part of his training for the Wild Wales Challenge.

Cycle parking in Greenwich town centre

In mid-August Donald Anyiam from the Council and several members of Greenwich Cyclists inspected sites for bike parking in downtown Greenwich from Cutty Sark to the mainline railway station and east to King William Walk. Greenwich Cyclists had identified 12 sites and requested new or improved parking at ten of these, including replacing the wavy structures south of Cutty Sark with the more practical Sheffield stands; and new sites outside the Post Office and Somerfields.

Donald's response was very positive. There would be funding of at least £10,000 this year for improved bike parking up to possibly £30,000 which would provide all the parking we agreed, subject to the approval of the Heritage committee and negotiations with Somerfields and the owner of its precinct car park.

Donald also agreed improved signage so that cyclists finding one site full would know of at least another one nearby. Signage will also be at the Foot Tunnel and on bike routes. Some of the proposed sites listed below:-

- More on the pavement outside Marks and Sparks
- More/different design, wider spaced, at three places around Cutty Sark Gardens
- More on Roan Street railway bridge opposite Cafe Rouge
- New stands in Somerfield square, taking one of the car parking spaces
- New stands outside Post Office (and opposite new cinema) on Greenwich High Road

Contact Us

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (next meeting 5th October) at 7.30 p.m. at the Armada Centre, 21 McMillan St, Deptford. See the website www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk, or email:

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