

Pedal Power

The newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists

Issue 39.1
June 2004

What have Greenwich Cyclists been doing the past year? Heres what.

Over the past twelve months, Greenwich Cyclists have been busier than ever, getting involved in a wide range of activities. We have listed those achievements below.

Rides:

We have organised almost 90 rides over the past twelve months, taking us all over London and the Southeast as well as further afield. We had another long weekend in Bala last August, with most of us taking part in the Wild Wales Challenge, and we joined Lewisham Cyclists for a camping weekend on the Isle of Wight in July. Old favourites such as the Locks, Docks and One Smoking Ferry ride (5 times this year and still as popular as ever) and Midsummer Madness ride featured on the rides calendar again as did the overnight excitement of the Dunwich Dynamo and the wonderful solitude of the city on our Christmas day ride. We started Friday rides, and ran regular Ranger rides last summer to help us maintain our bit of the Sustrans cycle network. We have continued to lead Easy-going rides on the first Saturday of every month to a variety of places across London. Our *Spring into Action* Campaign included a regular programme of into-work rides aimed at people who want to start commuting by bike, and a series of after-work rides.

Training / Maintenance classes:

We have provided ten free cycle training sessions for both adults and children and are planning more over the next twelve months. Our recent maintenance classes were over subscribed so we are planning another course in June.

Press / Pedal Power / Website:

Over the past year we have continued to develop relations with the press, and have taken part in a number of photo calls, most recently to voice our concern at the closure of the Thames Path through Mast Pond Wharf. We have continued to produce Pedal Power, and thanks to Steve and his free (but legitimate) photo-copying, we are now distributing more copies at the regular early-morning distribution sessions. These have resulted in a few new faces on our rides and the cycle counts are helping us to monitor the numbers of cyclists commuting through Greenwich. We have kept our website regularly updated and this has proved to be a valuable marketing tool.

Planning

This year we have started to work more closely with Greenwich council, the highlight being our attendance at the 28 January council meeting at which we submitted

14 written questions: A first for us, and a learning experience, but a method which we hope to use again in the future. The meeting resulted in councillors meeting us separately to discuss the issues, which has in turn led to six monthly meetings with key personnel being set up. We have also responded to planning applications such as the Thames Gateway consultation.

Schools Projects

This year we entered the world of funding by applying for and successfully receiving a total of £31,660 to run two school cycle projects aimed at equipping pupils with the skills needed to cycle to school and to embed cycling into their everyday lives. Thanks to the help of the Dept of Transport and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund we were able to provide cycle training for 75 twelve and thirteen year olds at Eltham Green Secondary School. We have also funded two trips to the Eastway Cycle track enabling GCSE PE students to experience cycling on another terrain and funded a Cycle Training instructor course for the six members of PE staff so that the training can continue.

Grants from the Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest and the Key Fund are currently being used to provide a class of ten and eleven year olds at St Thomas a Beckett Primary School in Abbey Wood with cycle training. We are also running Dr Bike sessions after schools for pupils and their parents to encourage other family members to get on their bikes.

On top of this we have had tea with Jenny Jones, danced the night away at two ceilidhs, ridden rickshaws around the Millennium Village; raced our way around Herne Hill Velodrome and much much more.

If you are picking this up for the first time and are curious to know more, or if you're a regular reader who's keen to help out with some of our activities, come along to our next meeting at the Forum or contact Julian Dobson the new chair-person (all details below).

And what can they do for us?

GC canvassed the local London Assembly candidates for their views on cycling policy. We summarised the Green Party's cycling manifesto in May Pedal Power, and you can read the cycling policies of all the political parties that responded on our website: go to the News section of www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk.

Contact Greenwich Cyclists via Julian Dobson (Chairperson) at julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk or write to us at :The Forum @Greenwich (177 Trafalgar Road)

Note: these contact details are due to change in the next month

Editor: Julian Dobson julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk

Rides & Events: Bike Week

See www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk for up-to-date information.
All rides leave Cutty Sark Gardens (CSG) unless otherwise noted.



Bike Week is the UK's annual 'celebration of cycling'. From 12th to 20th June, 1,500 local events are anticipated to attract 150,000 participants. The Bike2Work promotion runs all week and many B2W events - including the Parliamentary Bike Ride - will be on Wednesday 16 June. For 2004, Greenwich Cyclists is organising at least one ride or event for each day throughout Bike Week, from a leisurely ride around the Dome, to an expedition to the Kent borders, to a Greenwich Park picnic.

June/Bike Week:

Sat 12th: Hoo Peninsula. Ride from Greenwich to the Hoo Peninsula in Kent. Depart CSG at 09:00am, or take a train to Higham and meet at Higham Station at 10:30am. ... Jason 07974 155082

Sun 13th: Bike Fest @ Trafalgar Square. Meet CSG at 11:30am for an easy-going ride to Trafalgar Square for the Bike Fest. Jason 07974 155082

Mon 14 June: Meet and Greet Greenwich Cyclists. Meet at CSG 6:30pm for a very easy flat 3 mile ride around The Dome to The Pilot pub. An ideal opportunity to meet Greenwich Cyclists! Jason 07974 155082

Tue 15th: Lea Valley. Meet CSG, Greenwich at 19:00 for a ride along the Lea Valley until dusk. *Please bring lights.* Jason 07974 155082

Wed 16th: Commuter ride. Greenwich-Cen London Assisted commuter ride from CSG to Central London along the main roads starting at CSG 7:30 am for safety in numbers. Jason 07974 155082

Wed 16th: Commuter ride. Lon Bridge-Greenwich. Assisted commuter ride from Lon Bridge to Greenwich along the main roads starting outside Evans bike shop, Southwark Needle, south side of Lon Bridge at 5:30pm for safety in numbers. Jason 07974 155082

Wed 16th: BBQ in West Norwood £3 to cover cost of food, & BYO bottle. Meet CSG at 6.30pm. Derek will lead a ride to West Norwood, or 7.30pm at 242 Norwood Rd, 100 m from Tulse Hill BR..... Derek 020 8670 4149

Thu 17th: Waterlink Way. Meet CSG, Greenwich at 6:30pm and head south down the Waterlink Way until dusk. *Please bring lights.* Jason 07974 155082

Fri 18th: The Red House and Eltham Palace. Meet CSG, Greenwich at 11:00am for a ride to The Red House in Bexleyheath. This house was the former residence of William Morris and has been recently featured on BBC television. The ride distance should be about eight miles. An optional ride may take place in the afternoon to Eltham Palace: one of the great Art Deco houses in London. Jason 07974 155082

Sat 19th: Ride to Edenbridge: Meet 10am Cutty Sark Gardens, 11 am train, 36 mile ride, 3 hills, pub lunch 1/2 way through. Jason 07974 155082

Sun 20th: Ride to Kent Borders. Meet CSG, Greenwich 10:00am for a ride to Downe, Cudham, Knockholt and Shoreham and and back to Greenwich in time for the picnic shown below. Jason 07974 155082

Sun 20th June: A Local Explore. Easy paced explore of Greenwich, Blackheath and Charlton, ending up at our End of Bike Week picnic in Greenwich Park. Meet 4pm CSG. Hilary 07929 722 973

Sun 20th: Picnic in Greenwich Park. Join us in Greenwich Park by the General Wolfe Statue with our neighbouring cycling groups from 6:00pm onwards. Jason 07974 155082

Mon 21: Midsummer Madness Ride. Today's the longest day of the year: the Summer Solstice. There's magic about. Ride the deserted streets and see the sunrise from the top of Primrose Hill. Meet 2am Cutty Gardens Gardens. 2.30am: south end of London Bridge. 3am: Bar Italia, Frith Street. 4am: top of

Primrose Hill. 4.43am: sunrise! 6am: breakfast at the Island Cafe, corner of Southwark Bridge Road/Union Street. Barry: 07905 889 005

Mon21: Solstice for Softies. See the sunrise on Blackheath! Meet CSG 4 am for a short ride over Blackheath to see the sunrise, then tea at the Blackheath Tea Hut. Julian 07940281932

Friday 25 June: Critical Mass. 6pm National Film Theatre. South Bank. (bit political).

July

Sat 3rd July: Easygoing Ride The Millennium Village Fun Day. This will run from 11-3pm. Meet CSG 10.00am for a gentle ride along the Thames path to the Millennium Village. If you are interested in helping Greenwich Cyclists to give rickshaw rides around the village please contact Hilary 07929 722 973

Wed 7th: Greenwich Cyclists monthly meeting 7:30pm - 9:00pm The Forum, 177 Trafalgar Road.

June Maintenance Course

Two week maintenance course covering brakes and gears:
Thursday 19th and 26th June, 7 – 9 pm, at:

Greenwich West Community and Arts Centre
141 Greenwich High Road, Greenwich,
London SE10 8JA

£8 for the two classes. Send cheque made payable to Greenwich Cycles to: Julian Dobson, 66 Eltham Rd, SE12 8UE.

Contact Julian Dobson: 020 8463 0801



New committee for 2004

There are some new names on the GC Committee, and some changes in the roles. The role of co-ordinator has gone, with the duties being shared among the other positions (details and contacts on www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk).

For 2004-5, the committee is:

Elected Roles

Chair: Julian Dobson
Secretary: Anthony Austin
Treasurer: Derek Mark
Press Office: John Warren
Planning: Nick Williams
PP Editor: Julian Dobson

Voluntary Roles

Rides Org: John Hearn
Xoi Ly
Training Org: Hilary Samuels

Thanks to Hilary Samuels, Karen Marks, Karen Servadai, Barry Mason, Kate Lees and Liz Delap for the work and time they put into the club last year; thanks to Nick Williams and Andy Braben for their work last year; and welcome to Derek, John and John, Anthony and Xoi.