

# Pedal Power

The newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists. Issue 54, May/June 2006

## Bike Week 2006

Bike Week (17-25 June) is the UK's annual celebration of cycling: 1,500 local events will attract more than 250,000 participants around the country. Events are free to enter and many are suitable for novices.

London Cycling Campaign (LCC) borough groups will be organising events every day of that week, including "bike 2 works" with breakfasts, after-workers, family rides, more challenging rides and Dr Bikes. Greenwich Cyclists, together with Lewisham and Southwark, have put together a full program of rides and events to coincide with Bike Week which you can find on our websites:

[www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk](http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk)

[www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk)

[www.lewishamcyclists.net](http://www.lewishamcyclists.net)

or by going to the Bike Week website at [www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)



## Belated victory at Mast Quay

The Thames Path - part of the long-distance Route 1 of the National Cycle Network - follows the banks of the Thames for over 10 miles from Greenwich to Erith with very few short detours away from the river bank. Yet for the last two years a 40 metre stretch near the Woolwich Ferry has been closed due to a housing development (named Mast Quay) on the site of the former Mast Pond Wharf. Closure of this insignificant stretch of path, which could have been kept open at very modest expense compared with the cost of the development, has forced both cyclists and pedestrians, including residents of the adjacent estate, to use the busy A206 dual carriageway as a diversionary route.



After much lobbying from Greenwich Cyclists and others, and appearances in the local press, it was agreed by the developers and the Council that the path would reopen, permanently, in time for the Mayor's annual charity cycle ride on 26 March. In the event, the 'permanent' bit of the agreement was ignored and the path was re-opened literally only for a few hours in order to let the Mayor's ride through - in one direction only!

The good news is that after direct discussions between Barry Mason of Greenwich Cyclists, the contractor (Lancsville) and the developers (Comer Homes) the path has now reopened permanently - see photo! Comer is expected to apply for planning permission for an adjacent "phase 2" development shortly, but it is to be hoped that this time the developers will have listened to us and honour their promise to keep the path open during the construction work.

## Rides and Events

See back page for a selection of rides. For a full list of rides organised by this and other borough groups, or to check for updates, go to any of these websites:

[www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk](http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk) ; [www.lewishamcyclists.net](http://www.lewishamcyclists.net) ; [www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcyclists.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.

## Rules of the Road

### Hand Signals



#### Turning left

Indicate that you are turning left by holding your left arm out at right angles

#### Turning right

Indicate that you are turning right by holding your right arm at right angles



#### Stopping

Indicate that you are stopping by waving your right arm up and down

### A "Going Forward" Signal?

*It would be useful to have a signal for cyclists to indicate that she or he is going forward, not to the left. This may stop some cars from turning left directly in front of bicycles. Unfortunately, such a signal does not seem to exist in UK traffic rules.*

## AGM 7 June

Our annual general meeting will be held on 7 June 2006 at the usual time and venue (7.30pm at the Armada Centre - see below). It will be followed by a subsidised buffet in the Dog & Bell pub, Prince Street for those who have registered. Do come if you can. The positions of Chairperson and Secretary are up for renewal, anyone who has attended meetings or rides may stand for the committee.

### Contact Us

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (next meeting 7 June) at 7.30 p.m. at the Armada Centre, 21 McMillan St, Deptford. See the website [www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk](http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk), or email:

Chairperson: Julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk  
Maintenance: Julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk  
Press: Maria Robinson: mrobinson@copyprint.co.uk  
Rides: Ray Suomi: Ray@dccnet.com  
Treasurer: Derek Mark: derekmark@hotmail.com  
Secretary: anthony.austin@reuters.com  
Planning: anthony.austin@reuters.com  
Webmaster: Andy Braben: abraben@email.com  
Training: Liz Delap: liz.delap@dial.pipex.com

## selected rides

Check out the website (see below) for updates and additional rides as they are planned.

### May

**Friday 26: Critical Mass.** Meet 6pm at the National Film Theatre under Waterloo Bridge for a slow meander around Central London.

**Saturday 27: Sevenoaks.** From Tonbridge towards Ashford and back along the Rivers Medway and Beult, over the Weald. A fairly flat ride entirely on roads and should be suitable for all bikes. Many opportunities to cut the ride short and jump on a train home. We'll find a pub for lunch. More info from [Lewisham Cyclists](http://Lewisham Cyclists).

### June

**Bike Week** (see front page). Lots of events for Bike Week and June weekends will be listed on the website nearer the time!

### July

#### Saturday 1: Cycle Stage 1 of Tour de France.

Meet: 8am: Buckingham Palace, 9am: Southwark Needle, 10am: CSG. Following stage 1 of the Tour de France 2007 to Gravesend, Medway, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Tenterden, Ashford, Canterbury. 90 miles. A sociable stay-together ride, not a race, but we'll have to push it. No van following. (Barry 07905 889 005)

#### Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 : Dunwich Dynamo

**14.** An unsupported overnight ride to Dunwich Beach in Suffolk. Once out of London, it's mostly deserted country lanes. But it's 120 miles. Coach back (advance booking essential). Contact Barry (07905 889 005) before making any plans.

