

Pedal Power

Greenwich Cyclists' Newsletter



Issue 55 July | August 2006

Cycling at the Old Royal Naval College

We're campaigning for a permanent cycle path through the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

Despite its use now as a World Heritage site and shared by the University of Greenwich and Trinity College of Music, the Greenwich Foundation continues the ban on cycling which it inherited from the Ministry of Defence.

The situation at end-June 2006

The Foundation's view is that the College is a pedestrian area and that cyclists and pedestrians "do not mix well", saying that a few individuals cycle recklessly.

Vehicles do use the College roadways, and the foundation says this is for access and delivery only. Generally road access is by the East Gate where the car parks are, including a new one built over a re-discovered Tudor chapel.

"We are still in discussion with the London Borough of Greenwich and Sustrans," Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of the Greenwich Foundation, told Pedal Power when asked recently about progress on a proposed shared-use path inside the northern perimeter of the college, at the fringe of campus activity.

"The Council needs to submit a detailed, costed estimate. We can't do things like this on the basis of a handshake."

The council's lead cycling officer, Donald Anyiam, has said the funding for the works in question is "secure".

So where's the hold-up? We'll let you know. Meanwhile, add your voice to the chorus demanding access.

Temporary river path closure

The narrow riverside path between railings outside the college is temporarily closed to shore up the bank. While the work's going on, the Foundation is letting pedestrians and cyclists use a temporary route inside the college. It's turning a blind eye to cyclists who stay on their bikes. But be sure, when the work is done the security guys will again firmly insist that you dismount.

The normally crowded riverside path is very narrow – even more so when cyclists have to wheel their bikes. There is a need for a permanent, wider, shared-use path to give both pedestrians and cyclists room to move.

 Anthony Austin | Greenwich Cyclists Planning



The pedestrian gates on each side of the West Gate are always open between 8:00 and 18:00 daily. From here cyclists can wheel their bikes through the College grounds, but not ride them.



The temporary shared-use path at Cutty Sark Gate leading to both the East Gate and Trafalgar Gate (closed until works are completed in October 2006). The Trafalgar Gate is sited approximately where the "Tradesman's" entrance and courtyard existed during Tudor times.

Greenwich's Hidden History

There was some comment on Greenwich Cyclists' mailing list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwichcyclists/>) that "we must live in a very sad world" when a site of such historical importance as the royal chapel is buried under a car park.

Perhaps we should not be so harsh on our age. The Stuarts buried the chapel remains in the first place after demolishing the Tudor palace to make way for the magnificent buildings now on the site.

Furthermore, the new parking facilities include not only 49 new car places, but also 37 bicycle stands for visitors and students. That's parking for 74 bikes.

Reburial (yes, sadly) is probably the best way of preserving archaeological remains for future generations. Recently English Heritage was obliged to rebury more of Plantagenet King Edward III's manor house because of vandals/souvenir-takers. You can see this site west along Cycle Route 4 on Bermondsey Wall East, near the Angel pub.

Because nearly all of Greenwich's pre-Stuart buildings have been demolished, the Tudor period is rather neglected despite its importance in English and world history. Some tourists, expecting to see "Maritime Greenwich", are surprised to discover that it was from Greenwich Palace (the Palace of Placentia) that Elizabeth I ruled England and Wales, waged war on the Irish, investigated the Americas, and organised resistance to the Spanish Armada.

Photos of the chapel remains, and artefacts discovered, may be exhibited soon at the Maritime Museum or the Tourist Centre.



Help develop cycle routes in Greenwich

Two cycle route inspection meetings (CRIMs) are to be held in August by consultants to Greenwich Council. If you have an interest in these routes, the CRIMs are an opportunity to have your say on their development:

1. LCN+ Link 56

Where it is: LCN+ Link 56 is aligned along the existing Thames Cycle Route:

Pedestrian link, Park Row, Old Woolwich Road, Unity Way, Park/Canal, Hoskins Street, Collington Street, Lassell Street, Ballast Quay, Park/Canal, Pelton Road, Christchurch Way, Mauritius Road, Blackwall Lane, Tunnell Avenue, Park/Canal, Dreadnought Street, Boord Street, Park/Canal

Dates: pre-CRIM and inspection of part of the route: 9:00, 8 August 2006; inspection of rest of route: 9:00, 9 August 2006..

Contact: David Rickard 01483 750 508, drickard@mayerbrown.co.uk

2. Link 60

Aim: to review the Link's alignment, conditions for cyclists, and possible improvements along the route.

Where it is: Link 60 crosses Greenwich from the B226 Grove Park Road (Bromley) to the A211 Footscray Road (Bexley), with the following alignment: WestPark, Cross Mead, Fairy Hill Recreation Ground, Broad Lawn, Green Lane, Blanmerle Road, and Footscray Road (including New Eltham Station).

CRIM to be held on a day between:

Monday 14 August – Friday 18 August; or Monday 21 August – Thursday 24 August.

Contact: Robert Gallagher 0117 925 1027, rgallagher@mayerbrown.co.uk to find out what day(s) have been decided and the start time and place.

You can help improve Greenwich's cycling facilities

If you want a new cycle path, bike parking, better road access for bicycles, etcetera, please let us know by emailing your suggestions to Greenwich Cyclists' Planning Officer, Anthony Austin anthony.austin@reuters.com

Bike Week 2006: some highlights



Midsummer Madness ride: Cutty Sark at 2:00



Just before dawn at Primrose Hill: rain, clouds, wet cyclists



Bike Magic included a BMX display



Dr Bike



Maria with some of her students at Woolwich



On the Windsor ride

There were many events in and around Greenwich to celebrate this year's Bike Week in late June.

The annual Midsummer Madness ride from Cutty Sark at 2:00 to Primrose Hill to watch the sun rise started off well but by the time we arrived at Primrose Hill it was raining and the clouds hid the sun. Nonetheless there was a cheer at 4:46, and some cyclists continued to the Globe Theatre for breakfast at 6:00. Because it was a weekday, others went home to sleep for a couple of hours before going to work.

There was Bike Magic at Peckham and Dr Bike everywhere. Maria Robinson taught children at Woolwich to ride their bikes.

Many bike rides started from Cutty Sark to go in all directions including Windsor, Oxleas Woods and a tour of the 2012 Olympic sites.

This year's Bike Week coincided with the London Architecture Biennale so there was a "Reinventing the Bike Shed" exhibition at On Your Bike shop London Bridge plus bike rides and other events to celebrate.

Rides & Events

Go to these websites for more ride details where indicated: **Greenwich URL:** <http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk/events/events.html> • **Lewisham URL:** <http://www.lewishamcyclists.net/Events.html> • **Southwark URL:** <http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk/social.shtml#now>
These websites will list more events and any changes to the rides and events below:

🚲 Tuesday 11 July: After Worker

Meet CSG 18:30
Ray 07963 349 993

🚲 **Thursday 13 July: After Worker Southwark** Meet London Bridge Needle 18:30
Barry 07905 889 005

🚲 **Saturday 15 July: London – Brighton – Gatwick.** Meet London Bridge Station 9:00
Ian 07986 872 205 [Lewisham URL]

🚲 **Sunday 16 July: Rotherhithe Festival** from 10:00 Russia Docks Woodland
Barry 07905 889 005 [Southwark URL]

🚲 **Sunday 16 July: London Bikeathon Charity Ride** <http://www.justgiving.com/lrfbikeathon/>

🚲 **Saturday 22 July: Karen's Kent Knockabout.** 10:00 CSG 40 miles.
Karen 07854 017 438 or Sue 07977 463 638 [Greenwich URL]

🚲 **Sunday 23 July: Woods & Rivers** 10:00 CSG. 40 miles
Ian 07986 872 205 [Lewisham URL]

🚲 **Sunday 23 July: London to Cambridge Charity Ride** http://www.cambridgebs.co.uk/community/articles/London_Cambridge_2006.html

🚲 Tuesday 25 July: After Worker

Meet CSG 18:30
Ray 07963 349 993

🚲 **Wednesday 25 July: Rides Meeting at the Dog and Bell** Come and have a pint. Meet 18:30
Ray 07963 349 993

🚲 **Thursday 27 July: After Worker Southwark** Meet London Bridge Needle 18:30
Barry 07905 889 005

🚲 **Saturday 29 July: Bermondsey History Ride**
Barry 07905 889 005 [Southwark URL]

🚲 Saturday 30 July: Manningtree Suffolk Ferries

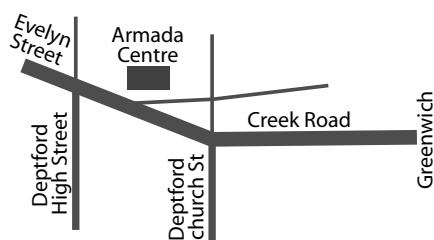
Barry 07905 889 005 [Southwark URL]

🚲 **Sunday 6 August: Locks and Docks** 10:00 CSG
Barry 07905 889 005 [Southwark URL]

🚲 **Saturday 12 August: Brighton via the Towpath** 8:00 CSG
Ian 07986 872 205 [Lewisham URL]

🚲 **Friday 25 – Tuesday 29 August: The Wild Wales Weekend.** For the fifth year running Greenwich Cyclists head for the hills. [Greenwich URL].

CSG = Cutty Sark Gardens



Contact us

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (next meetings 2 August and 6 September) at 19:30 at the Armada Centre, 21 McMillan Street, Deptford. See our website www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk, or join our mailing list <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwichcyclists/>, or email:

Chairperson Julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk
Maintenance Julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk
Newsletter ppeditor@dsl.pipex.com
Planning anthony.austin@reuters.com
Rides Ray@dccnet.com
Secretary stephen@stthomas.greenisp.org
Training liz.delap@teslaeurope.com
Treasurer derekkmark@hotmail.com
Webmaster abraben@email.com