

Pedal Power

The Newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists



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London Cycling Awards 2006

Greenwich Cyclists' trainer, Liz Delap, is Highly Commended for Best Cycling Initiative for Young People and Children

Greenwich Cyclist member Liz Delap is a volunteer member of a team of cycle trainers working at John Ball Primary School (Blackheath) for the past 18 months. Training has been provided as part of the school curriculum to all children in Years 3 to 6, using National Standards. Some children had not ridden at all before, others have improved their skills and learnt how to ride safely in traffic. The school has a pool of bikes, though children use their own if they have them. Many

children now ride to school on a regular basis.

The school and team have been presented with a Highly Commended award by the London Cycling Campaign in the Best Cycling Initiative for Young People or Children category in the London Cycling Awards for 2006.

"It's wonderful to see the huge smile of satisfaction on a child's face when they achieve something new" says Liz, "they really enjoy their cycling classes and are developing enormous confidence".



Liz Delap with Tom Crispin of the John Ball Primary School at the recent London Cycling Awards



Useful Things for Cyclists

These goodies may be available from other stores, but the ones listed definitely do sell them

- 🏠 **Icbreaker** pure merino wool lining **gloves** are ideal for cyclists because they are warm, breathable and tight fitting so you do not have to take them off to lock your bike, fit the lights, etc. Wear them underneath mitts or big winter gloves. £18 from Snow and Rock (various stores around London) or NZ\$29.00 from sales@outdoorsports.co.nz
- 🏠 Wear glasses? To stop them from fogging up in the rain, cold weather or when you walk into a warmer room, try **No Fog Cloth** from Snow and Rock £1.99. The cloth also reduces the rain drops on your specs though does not prevent them completely.
- 🏠 **Folding pedals** – if you have to haul your bike through narrow stairways and doorways, these reduce the possibility of your bike scratching the walls, banisters and furniture en route. £29 from On Your Bike, London Bridge.
- 🏠 **Revolution Vision switch LED front light**, can be used as a bar light or be fixed to a helmet. www.edinburgh-bicycle.co.uk web ref. 7558. £795, was £12.95
- 🏠 **Topeak Mountain Morph pump**. A little smaller than the road morph, pumps up to 120 psi (Road 160). £29.99 use your LCC to get

a discount at various London bike shops. Dynamite little pump. I don't have a floor pump, just use my mountain morph!!

- 🏠 **Seam Grip** – This stuff is just amazing. Fixes almost anything. I repaired a 12 inch rip on my rain fly and it is stronger than the actual material!! Not so good on metal but fabric, wonderful. Take it with you cycle touring. Hint: Store in freezer after opening. £6.99 for a small tube at Snow and Rock.
- 🏠 **Park Chain Break Tool CT-5**. Small, compact and works amazingly well, durable, will last you for years, always carry mine around, fix other people's chains! £14.95. Should be able to get at a good bike store, Evans, On Your Bike, Condor, Harry Perry, Wharf Cycles.
- 🏠 For the minimalist, **Park Tool M-1**. Five of the most common hex wrenches, a flat end screw driver and 2 box end wrenches all on a 5 inch x 1 1/2 inch tool. Very light. Best of all it has a crank bolt sized hex on it. With this and the Chain break tool you have pretty much your tool kit. Sometimes a bit awkward to use, but hey this is minimalist. Should be able to find it at Evans, On Your Bike, Condor, Harry Perry, Wharf Cycles for around £9.95

Learn bicycle skills with Liz Delap and our training team

Greenwich Cyclists' low-cost cycle training scheme is continuing. We have two qualified trainers, working to National Standards, who will train adults or children. They can provide training for complete novices through to those wanting to improve their road and traffic skills on busy roads.

Contact details for trainers and costs are on our website:

<http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk/training/training.html>

Gain confidence riding your bicycle



Preparing for the Climate Change Rally – Cutty Sark, November 2006



Not a recommended way to park bikes photo from *The Daily Telegraph*

Greenwich Council makes major decision on part of Link 59 without considering the CRIM report

David Senior represented Greenwich Cyclists at the Cycle Route Inspection Meeting (CRIM) for the LCN+ Link 59 held in October. He reports:

Route 59 is a short North-South route from North Greenwich Station to The Rochester Way on roads and cycle paths close to 102(M).

The most important issue for the CRIM was the cycle path route at Blackheath Standard. This section of the path, between Charlton Road and Old Dover Road, has a toucan crossing at its Charlton Road end for both cyclists and pedestrians. It was sealed off in October 2005 to build Housing Association Flats on the site of the derelict Charlton Garages, and the cycle route was temporarily rerouted via Craigerne Road and Banchorry Road along busy roads involving difficult right turns.

With the building work nearly complete, planning permission for the 'temporary' diversion to be made permanent was discussed at a meeting of the Greenwich Planning and Environment Committee on the evening the CRIM took place, before its report could be submitted. The chairman of the committee is Councillor Alex Grant who represents me and other voters in Blackheath

Westcombe Ward where the path and its diversion are located.

This planning application was not on the published agenda. It was introduced at short notice for consideration as an urgent addition and Greenwich Cyclists would like to thank the Council's cycling officer, Don Anyiam, for drawing this event to our attention.

After Don Anyiam presented the case for reinstating the cycle path's original route, I spoke to the committee on behalf of Greenwich Cyclists. However, two elderly residents of the Hexagon Estate (located on the northern section of the closed path) raised objections to the reinstatement because of the anti-social behaviour they had encountered when the path was open. This had included "unwelcome visits from the lowlifes from The Bluecoat School [who had] drugs, knives, occasional guns, and they [had] sex around here". The two residents said they were happy to suffer the inconvenience of a closed path even though they would have to walk further to the bus stops, etc. They also insisted that a cycle path never existed there.

In view of the residents' submission, the committee decided to make the temporary cycle route permanent.

While I am very sympathetic to the Hexagon residents, circumstances have changed. Of most relevance is that the derelict garages, which were the magnet for the anti-social behaviour, have been replaced by homes. The traffic created by both cyclists and pedestrians along the path would deter anti-social behaviour. There are also legal issues about the closure of a public right of way.

It is amazing that the Council would decide upon this issue before considering all the implications and before the report of the CRIM could be produced and discussed. It is a considerable waste of public money to have consultants and others prepare a report which is to be ignored. The timing of the decision reveals an amateurish lack of procedural co-ordination within Greenwich Council. It appears too that I pay council tax so that Don can give advice to the Council which it then chooses to ignore.

I am happy to discuss this matter with anyone interested. If you feel strongly about the issue please phone me on 020 8858 7570.

David Senior



Who should be looking after the Thames Path at Mast Pond Wharf?

Whoever it is isn't doing the job

Around the beginning of November vandals wrecked the fencing around the short stretch of the temporarily-finished part of the Thames Path at Mast Pond Wharf, just west of the Woolwich Ferry. On 9 November some members of Greenwich Cyclists offered to jointly maintain the section of the path by putting right the poles "with a wrench and an hour or less work".

So far the Council has done nothing but state that Greenwich Cyclists cannot do maintenance because of insurance problems. At first a Council spokesman insisted it was a building site and only the building contractors could do any such maintenance. Later the spokesman agreed that the Health and Safety Executive would not be involved since it was not part of the construction site after all. It would be a matter for Environmental Health.

In addition to the vandalism, The Thames has eroded a hole around two feet into a section of the path, leaving only a veneer of the temporary asphalt surfacing above it. It is strong enough to stand on, but for how long can this be sustained? This is dangerous.

The Council said that the problems would be resolved around Christmas but it is now nearly Christmas and nothing has been done. For nearly two months. Come on, the fencing could have been fixed in an hour (or less) and the hole filled using a small concrete mixer. Whoever is responsible should behave responsibly.



Mast Pond Wharf, the shame – Greenwich Council dithers while the river erodes the Thames Path away (inset)



Link 59 – Contrary to what the two Hexagon Estate residents stated, the toucan and the cycle signs at Charlton Road indicate that a cycle path existed

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

Rides & Events



Saturday 22 December: Rainham Marshes and the new RSPB Visitor Centre Meet 10am Cutty Sark Gardens. About 12 miles. Lunch and look around. Then back along the bike routes of the A13. (Barry 07905 889 005)

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day Ride Meet 10am Cutty Sark Gardens or 11am Southwark Needle (south end of London Bridge) for a slow sociable exploring ride round quiet central London with a late lunch in a good value Edgware Road cafe that caters for vegans too. Optional extension and pub search after. (Barry 07905 889 005)

Tuesday 02 January: Rides Meeting 18:30 Dog and Bell, 116 Prince St, SE8 3JD

Saturday 6 January: Brentford Loop 09:30 Cutty Sark Gardens. Distance: 50 miles (Ian 07 986 872 205) An all day ride north through the Isle of Dogs and joining the Grand Union Canal. A flat ride with long sections of tow path which are unsuitable for racey road bikes. Also expect a 2 to 3 mile muddy section.

You will need a British Waterways permit to cycle on their tow paths. Please bring lights for a finish that is expected to be around 18:00

Sunday 7 January: River Lee Details TBA

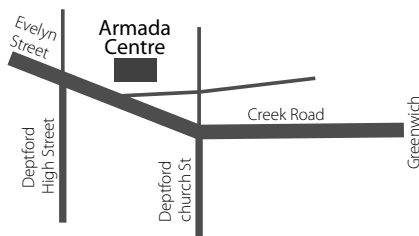
Saturday 13 January: Writtle and the Rodings Details TBA

Saturday 20 January Eynsford Details TBA

Sunday 21 January Canals, Park and a Lake 10:00 Cutty Sark Gardens Details TBA

Go to these websites for more ride details:
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 listed.

All rides and events are free (unless otherwise indicated) and open to all – LCC members and non-members



Contact us

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (next meeting 1 November) at 19:30 at the Armada Centre, 21 McMillan Street, Deptford. See our website www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk, join our mailing list <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwichcyclists/>, email us enquiries@greenwichcyclists.org.uk



Greenwich Cyclists is part of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC)

LCC is the only organisation exclusively campaigning and lobbying to ensure the best possible routes, facilities and services for people who cycle in London. Membership benefits include: ● Free London Cyclist magazine ● Free third party insurance ● Up to 10% off bike gear at many London bike shops ● Free legal advice ● A special deal on theft insurance. Join up today at www.lcc.org.uk and help make London a world class cycling city. Phone: 020 7234 9310.