

# Pedal Power

The Newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists



Issue 66 April/May 2008

## Cyclist death in Greenwich Park.

A Vietnamese restaurant owner who admitted causing the death of a cyclist in Greenwich Park by dangerous driving was fined £2,500 and banned from driving for five years at Woolwich Crown Court last month. The charge arose out of a collision on the hill last June. The victim was Leonard Woods, a commuter from Bromley.

Normally this offence would incur a custodial sentence, but the judge gave the lesser sentence in view of the fact that the driver pleaded guilty at the first opportunity, showed great remorse, and there was no evidence of his having exceeded the park speed limit of 30 mph.

Greenwich Cyclists have been in consultation with the Park authorities about cycle safety since the accident. The possibility of a reduction in speed limit to 20 mph is currently being reviewed by the Royal Park authority, but has to be passed through Parliament. Police have incidentally remarked that some cyclists as well as motorists travel down the hill at speeds greater than 30 mph.

Funding to consider cycling and pedestrian facilities and safety in the Park is also being sought. This could include the re-alignment of the 2-way cycle path to the other side of the road and a change to an up-hill direction only. The Park authorities are keen to promote cyclist and pedestrian co-operation. They are aware that numbers of cyclists passing through the Park have grown significantly and that current facilities are inadequate.

Greenwich Cyclists will be consulted further on design and other issues if the funding is obtained.

There is strong support among Greenwich Cyclists and other users for a total ban on through traffic in the Park, to replace the rush hour traffic currently allowed.

## Could you help with counting cyclists?

We are putting together a bid for funding from the London Cycling Campaign to count the number of cyclists using North Greenwich station (and possibly other locations) to support the case for improved parking facilities. If you would be interested in taking part in this census, contact Anthony ([austin970@btinternet.com](mailto:austin970@btinternet.com))

## Sustrans Signing Survey

The Thames Path forms part of the Sustrans National Cycling Network. Sustrans is a civil engineering charity which designs and builds routes for cyclists, walkers and people with disabilities.

Greenwich Cyclists are a contact point for the route from Greenwich to Dartford. Sustrans has designated April as signing month: a time to check for missing/damaged signs.

On 5th April we surveyed the path from Greenwich to Erith, and noted a few signs near the Yacht club that were obscured by bushes, and a few places where it would be nice to have a Sustrans sign.

If you know of signing problems between Erith and Dartford (or other problems such as poor surface), please contact Julian Dobson at [julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk](mailto:julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk). There will be a ride beginning during May to put up new signs/clear bushes (date to be confirmed)



## Naval College route open!

Open at Last! We've campaigned for years to be able to ride through the Old Royal Naval College. Now we can do so on a shared path on the north side of the historical site. This will enable cyclists to bypass both Romney Road and the narrow riverside path at this point.



## May maintenance class

Book now for Greenwich Cyclists' May maintenance class, and get your bike ready for Bike Week. If there is anything in particular that you want to fit/repair, let me know beforehand, and bring it along. e.g. new brake pads, new chain.

### Place:

Armada Centre, 21 McMillan Street, Deptford SE12 3EZ (See reverse for map)

### Time:

19:15 to 21:00

### Dates:

Tue May 13th: *Basic skills* -

removing wheels and tires, repairing punctures

Tue May 20th: *Brakes* -

adjusting, servicing, replacing brake pads and cables etc

Tue May 27th: *Gears* -

adjusting, servicing, tuning, replacing chain etc

### Cost:

Basic :1 class: £5

Brakes and gears: 2 classes: £10

### Payment:

1. Pay online:

<http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk/Maintain/maintain.html>

2. By cheque:

Please make cheques payable to GREENWICH CYCLISTS, and send to Julian Dobson, 66 Eltham Rd, SE12 8UE.

Also, please email Julian Dobson stating that you have sent cheque, and provide a telephone contact. Note: I will not be able to confirm receipt of cheques until May 5th.

### Contact:

Julian Dobson:

[julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk](mailto:julian@jadobson.demon.co.uk)

020 8463 0801

Please see the 'maintenance classes' page on our website for more details of the classes.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

## 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](mailto:anthony.austin@reuters.com)

## Rides and Events



All rides and events are free (unless otherwise indicated) and open to all – LCC members and non-members. Please feel free to come along.

## Cycle Training



Greenwich Cyclists has two qualified training instructors who can provide low cost training to adults or children using National (or Bikeability) Standards. Training can be for groups or individuals and at a location to suit trainees. Instructors work on a voluntary basis, payment is to cover insurance.

For more information see our website

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

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

or contact Liz Delap at

[liz.delap@teslaeurope.com](mailto:liz.delap@teslaeurope.com)



### Saturday 19th April: Weybridge and back.

Across town to Richmond Park, drop down to the river, then follow the Thames Cycle Path all the way to Weybridge. Pub lunch after about 30 miles. There is the option of taking the train back at this point. After lunch, it's a fast road route back through town. Suitable for all bikes, maybe not a full-on racer though.

**Distance:** 60 miles. **Meet:** 09:30 Cutty Sark Gardens

**Details:** Paul 07957 209 322 (no texts please).



### Sunday 20th April: Red House and Bexleyheath.

Red House at Bexleyheath via Blackheath and Danson Park, home of William Morris and a design shrine to the Arts & Crafts movement. Free for National Trust members, £6.60 for non-members. 1 hour guided tour booked to start at noon. Lunch in Danson Park, alternative return by train from Bexleyheath. Suitable for all bikes.

**Distance:** approx. 15 miles. **Meet:** 10.00 Cutty Sark Gardens

**Details:** Anthony 07740 434078.



### Saturday 26th April: Southwark Healthy Ride (Peckham Square cafe).

#### Also Saturday 3rd, 10th and 31st May

For all. Ride starts at 11 and returns at 3pm. Suitable for all bikes and riders of all abilities.

**Meet:** 10am under the arch at Peckham Square cafe for Dr Bike check-up and adjustments.

**Details:** Barry 07905 889 005



### Saturday 3rd May: Greenwich - Gravesend - Rochester.

LCC and Lewisham Cyclists ride along the Thames Path to Gravesend for lunch, then onto Rochester. From there we'll loop back to Gravesend. All day ride - train back from Gravesend. There are plenty of opportunities to cut this ride short if you need to. Mostly off road to Dartford and a few busy roads.

**Distance:** 55 miles. **Meet:** 09.30 Ladywell Fields 10.00 Cutty Sark Gardens

**Details:** Ian 07986 872205.



### Wednesday 7th May: Greenwich Cyclists Monthly Meeting.

See **contact us** details below.



### Friday 9th May - Tuesday 13th May: Coast to Coast and Hadrian's Wall.

9 May: Virgin Train Euston 0846 - Carlisle, branch line to Workington. Dip toes in Irish Sea then pedal to YHA Keswick via Cockermouth and Bassenthwaite Lake.

10 May: C2C scenic old railway track to Penrith, north to Mrs Mounsey's farmhouse B&B near Brampton.

11 May: Hadrian's Wall stop at Birdoswald visitor centre, on to Haltwhistle centre of the civilized world, south on magnificent rail grade to Alston YHA.

12 May: Climb out of Alston onto big-view moors and another chevron out of Stanhope to blissful railway grade down off spine of England to Durham. Chaplain's Suite at Durham Castle if available, breakfast in the Norman Great Hall.

13 May: Follow River Wear to Monkwearmouth, dip in North Sea in homage to Venerable Bede then back via Metro train to Newcastle about 1630 and main line to Kings Cross.

Notes: Suitable for road bikes, need panniers to carry clothing, some hill climbing but public transport opt-outs often available..

**Details:** Anthony 07740 434078 or 020 8691 8827.



### Saturday 17th May: Southwark Healthy Ride (Dulwich Park cafe).

For all. Ride starts at 11 and returns at 3pm. Suitable for all bikes and riders of all abilities.

**Meet:** 10am under the arch at Dulwich Park cafe for Dr Bike check-up and adjustments.

**Details:** Barry 07905 889 005



### Saturday 24th May: Southwark Healthy Ride (Southwark Park cafe).

For all. Ride starts at 11 and returns at 3pm. Suitable for all bikes and riders of all abilities.

**Meet:** 10am under the arch at Southwark Park cafe for Dr Bike check-up and adjustments.

**Details:** Barry 07905 889 005

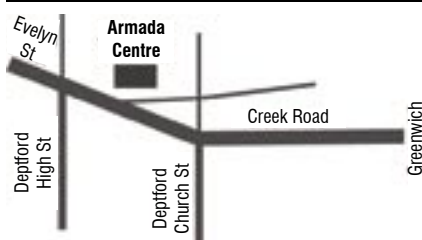
Go to these websites for more ride details:

Greenwich: <http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk/events/events.html>

Lewisham: <http://www.lewishamcyclists.net/Events.html>

Southwark: <http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk/social.shtml#now>

These websites will list more events and any changes to the rides and events listed.



## Contact us

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (next meeting 7th May - open to all) at 19.30 at the Armada Centre, 21 McMillan Street, Deptford.

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

Join our mailing list

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwichcyclists/>

email us [enquiries@greenwichcyclists.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.lcc.org.uk) and help make London a world class cycling city. Phone: 020 7234 9310.