

Pedal Power

The Newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists



Issue 62 June/ July 2007

'Clockwork Orange' gang attacks cyclists at Thamesmead

Two cyclists have been mugged while cycling on a lonely section of the riverfront. Here's what one man reported: "On 30th May at 17:55 I was travelling east on the south bank of the river and was approaching the pumping station at Thamesmere lake." (Eds: It's that dodgy place where there always used to be broken glass and a burnt-out car).

"I was about to pass through the gate onto the paved and landscaped section when I noticed a boy of about 14 blocking my way. He asked for the time then tried to grab the little speed/mileage 'computer' on the bike. As I tried to push past, six of his mates hiding behind the bunker-like structure

jumped me, punching and kicking. The next thing I knew I was on the ground. I managed to get away but they came at me again...."

"I rode a short distance out of sight and phoned the police on what was left of my broken mobile. Whilst I was talking to the police the second cyclist stopped, but he didn't stay, saying it was a waste of time talking to the police.

"The police are aware but I still haven't seen a single patrol along this stretch of the river (a couple of years ago they seemed to have a cycle patrol). This is the second time I have reported the anarchy that seems to exist in this area.

The first time was about a month earlier when one of a group of three tried to knock me off my bike by sliding his motorbike into me."

Last summer a gang of youths stole a bike which had been parked off the path further west, among blackberry bushes.



Foot Tunnel Lifts



Thanks to all of you who have told us about unexplained closures of these vital communication links.

Jeff Horsman, Greenwich Council's structures manager, projects and West Greenwich transportation, has come back to us with a detailed list of closures between March 12 and May 27. I've thanked Jeff for the reply, but I must say it makes dismal reading.

While awaiting his approval to reproduce the table in full, I can give you this summary:

Greenwich Foot Tunnel South lift: 29 closures due to staff shortages, 9 closures due mechanical/electrical problems.

Greenwich North Tunnel:

24 closures due staff shortages, 10 for technical problems, 1 for maintenance.

Woolwich Foot Tunnel South:

24 closures due staff shortages, 1 for faults, 2 for maintenance.

Woolwich North:

24 closures for staff shortages, 3 for maintenance, 5 for faults.

Jeff explains that "the staff shortage shutdowns occur when only two of the three rostered staff are available and it has not been possible to provide a replacement.

Our policy is that when only two staff are available they will take their breaks at the same time.

Every effort is made to run a fully staffed service, and you may have noticed a recent change in personnel in an attempt to provide a more reliable service."

New Bike Shop

Greenwich has a new bike shop! - The Bike Boutique.

Newham's 60 year old Cycle Asylum bike shop is closing in August due to a massive rise in rent. Ian the owner/manager came to Greenwich Cyclists monthly meeting/AGM to introduce himself and explain last Wednesday. Newham's loss is Greenwich's gain! Ian has now opened The Bike Boutique at Unit 9, Greenwich Outdoor Market, 18-19 Stockwell Street, SE10 9JN.

His ground floor shop is under the Bottle Shop towards the back of the old petrol station site opposite the town side of the Ibis Hotel. He's only currently open at weekends but plans to open longer for repairs and spares as trade grows.

Repairs, spares, new bikes. 10% LCC discount on everything.

07828 180335.

Do try him out. Independent bike shops deserve our support.

This year, the Tour de France starts in London. The Tour has visited the UK twice before but this is the first time ever that the world's greatest cycling race is to be launched from London. Saturday July 7th is the Prologue: athletes race against the clock around the centre of London: The winner wears the famous "yellow jersey" for the start of the tour on Sunday. Other attractions include the publicity cavalcade, and a People's Village of stalls, activities etc.

Join Greenwich Cyclists LCC ride to Hyde Park on Saturday July 7th to watch the Tour, and get:



Exclusive viewing area by Achilles Way for the Prologue race through Hyde Park



Special secure parking for your bicycles.

The main ride will leave from Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich, but you can join the ride anywhere between Woolwich and Greenwich. The ride will be led and marshalled by Greenwich Cyclists members, and will follow a safe route to Hyde Park (Maps available to download from our website and available on the day).

Ride Schedule Approx distance 22 miles from Cutty Sark Gardens

09:30: Woolwich - Fire Power Museum - GunPit Cafe

10:00: Charlton - Charlton Park School car park

10:15: Blackheath - Greenwich Park Gate

10:30: Greenwich - Cutty Sark Gardens

12:00: Arrive at Hyde Park

13:00: Tour de France publicity cavalcade

14:45: Time Trials

16:00: Early return ride to Greenwich

18:30: Late return ride to Greenwich

Email us at enquiries@greenwichcyclists.org.uk and let us know if you are coming.

We'll need your name and the names of anyone accompanying you so we can book places at Hyde Park on the day.

Things to bring



Water and snacks (especially for children), a spare inner tube, sun-screen, sun-hat and windbreaker

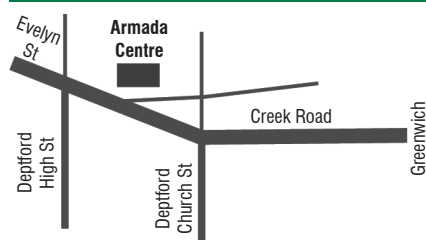
Cycle Training

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>

or contact Liz Delap at liz.delap@teslaeurope.com

I just wanted to say thanks again for the cycle training back in January. It's really made such a difference; I'm fitter, slimmer and just generally feel so much better and it's so much nicer going to and coming home from work, especially with all the traffic problems in Greenwich in the last few months. However, I don't think I would have got back on a bike again without the cycle training, which really gave me confidence to be out there on the road. (adult)



Contact us

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (next meeting 4th July - open to all) 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.