

Pedal Power

The Newsletter of Greenwich Cyclists



Issue 65 Feb/March 2008



Naval College route about to open

The opening of the shared-use path through the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich town centre, mentioned in previous issues, was delayed through the winter awaiting work on the road at the eastern end. It is now complete except for signage and should be opened for use any week now. The path should be accessible 24 hours a day, as this is a requirement for Sustrans routes, and will enable cyclists to bypass both Romney Road and the narrow riverside path at this point.



Has your bike been stolen?

According to the Police, statistics show only 206 cycle thefts reported overall in the Borough in 2007. Anecdotal evidence suggests this is well below the actual number of thefts; maybe people think it is not worth reporting as the probability of recovering a bike is small. If more incidents were reported, it would bolster the case for secure cycle parking at stations etc. If your bike has been stolen from a public place and you did not report it at the time, contact the Council's cycling officers with details:

jawaid.kazi@greenwich.gov.uk
donald.anyiam@greenwich.gov.uk

Unauthorised wall may come down

We reported in the September issue that after the cycle/footpath through the 'Hexagon' estate between Charlton and Old Dover Roads was suspended for construction of new flats, the builder erected a brick wall across the path. Our latest understanding is that a retrospective planning application for the wall is not possible under planning rules and the developer could be forced to demolish it. Greenwich Highways department currently supports a pedestrian path through the estate, but not a cycle route.



Lewisham primary school kids cycle to swimming lessons.

If you are in Greenwich Park or near the Wavelengths swimming pool in Deptford in a Monday afternoon you may have been surprised to see up to 29 children with High-Viz vests cycling by. A class of year 5 children from John Ball Primary school, aged 9-10, now make the round trip every week. They are accompanied by Tom Crispin from the school, Liz Delap, Instructor for Greenwich Cyclists and up to two Community Police officers. All the children have received cycle training at school. They either bring their own bikes or ride one of the school pool bikes.

"When we started in September it took ages to get going and keep everyone together" says Liz Delap, "but now the children have gained a lot of confidence and experience and the trip is much quicker. We do have to keep reminding them to concentrate on cycling and not to race each other though! Motorists are almost all very helpful and patient about letting such a large group get by, though I suppose they are quite glad to see them out of the way"

Foot tunnel improvements

Transport for London has allocated £20,000 to improve the staircase of Greenwich Foot Tunnel including provision of a channel to help in wheeling bikes up/down the stairs when the lift is not operating. Olympic Delivery Authority funding has also been secured for lift renewal before 2012. Meanwhile, the "rumble strips" in the Woolwich tunnel have not been a success as many cyclists are still riding through the gaps in the strips. As a group we encourage responsible cycling including walking bikes through the foot tunnels.

New bridge for Deptford Creek

You may have noticed that the land to the east of the creek mouth is now being developed. The good news is that the "section 106" agreement for the site includes a walking/cycling bridge across the creek, which will link the Thames Path each side and avoid having to cycle over the busy road bridge. The developer has commissioned architects to design the bridge and they are required to construct it before the apartments are occupied.

Greenwich council seeks cycle trainers

Michael Attride of Greenwich Council has a team of instructors and helpers offering individual cycle training. The Council will cover the cost of training instructors. Anyone interested in joining the team has to apply through the "Manpower" agency. e-mail cycle-training@greenwich.gov.uk

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)

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 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>

or contact Liz Delap at

liz.delap@teslaeurope.com



Wednesday 27th February: RIDES MEETING.

This is the regular, mostly monthly meeting to decide on and coordinate future rides with Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark Cyclists. We usually arrange rides for the following month. These meetings are informal with the business side taking about 30 minutes. If you have a ride you want to do or want to lead feel free to come along; everyone is welcome. Please note you have to be a member of the LCC before you can lead a ride for insurance reasons. Anyone can come to a meeting or on a ride, member or not. See you there . . .

Meet: 18:30 Dog and Bell, 116 Prince Street, SE8 3JD.

Details: Ian 07896 872 205 (no texts please).



Sunday 9th March: Eynsford with Pollards Hill Cyclists.

This is an LCC and Lewisham Cyclists Event. Meeting up with Pollards Hill Cyclists in Downe, cycling together to a pub lunch in Eynsford. After lunch, Lewisham and Pollards Hill will take separate routes back. Pace on this ride will be more moderate than some of our rides as we are riding with other folk, and it will feature that old favourite, Cudham's 25 per cent hill. But it is short and we'll wait for everyone. Not a particularly difficult ride apart from that. Pace back may well be faster. If you want to do half of the ride, you can take a train back from Eynsford but if planning to do this please check that there are no engineering works. Suitable for all bikes.

Distance: 45 miles.

Meet: 08:45 Cutty Sark Gardens 09:15 Ladywell Fields.

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



Sunday 16th March: The Serpentine and Hyde Park.

This is an LCC and Lewisham Cyclists Event. The North Approach. A slow easy ride to The Serpentine in Hyde Park taking the canal route to Paddington via Limehouse, Victoria Park, Islington and Camden. We'll take a look at the Derek Jarman exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery and then either have lunch at the cafe on the Serpentine or carry on to Battersea Park and lunch there. Suitable for all bikes and riders of all abilities. Bring lights and locks.

Distance: 25 - 30 miles.

Meet: 09:30 Ladywell Fields 10.00 Cutty Sark Gardens.

Details: Ian 07896 872 205 (no texts please).

In the future:



May: Coast to Coast and Hadrian's Wall.

Friday 9th May - Tuesday 13th May

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.

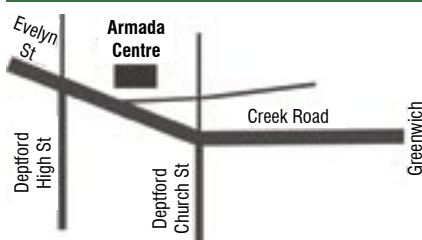
Go to these websites for more ride details:

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 5th March - 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 representing 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.