

# Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall  
June 2009

## Bike Week

For over ten years, Ealing Cycling Campaign have organised events for National Bike Week. Each year we seem to do more and more. On the back of this newsletter is a programme of what's happening in Ealing this year - including a series of Dr. Bike sessions organised by Ealing Council. Bike Week is a great opportunity to spread the word and help cyclists new to riding in London. Please come along to one or more of our events and encourage your friends to come too. Once you have read this newsletter, if you have anywhere at work where you can pin up the programme of events, please do.

## Light Relief... ?

In the next few weeks, Ealing Council will place bags over traffic lights at seven junctions in the borough in a six-month experiment to see if removing traffic lights speeds traffic flow. The move, the first in Britain, follows London Mayor, Boris Johnson's complaints at being stuck at traffic lights on a car journey through Ealing a few weeks ago.

The decision has raised concerns of safety for pedestrians and cyclists. However it is possible that there will be fewer casualties at the junctions. In the late 1990's, pioneering road traffic engineer, Hans Monderman, removed traffic lights from junctions in the Dutch town of Drachten. Up to then, the town had experienced an average of three road traffic deaths a year. In the following seven years there were none.

There is one crucial difference between Ealing's experiment and that in Holland. Monderman didn't just remove the traffic lights, he carefully redesigned the streets so that drivers, cyclists and pedestrians made eye contact with each other. We will know in six months whether Ealing's cut-price version is as safe.

*Martin Gorst*

## Green Award



David Eales, Councillor Ian Gibb and Andy Hillier

Earlier this year Ealing Community Network invited local volunteer groups to demonstrate their green credentials by identifying how their work meets the ECN environmental strategy and show their commitment of their volunteers towards green affairs. Three groups would each win £1,000. We didn't have to be asked twice to put ourselves forward. In mid May, David Eales and Andy Hillier attended the ECN conference where they were delighted to discover that we had won.

The award was presented by the deputy leader Ian Gibb who much to our surprise cycled to the event and showed great interest in our works.

A big thank you to Andy for all his hard work and impromptu acceptance speech and of course to his family for their support on the day and for sparing him while he compiled his report.

We're now planning what to spend the money on which is always a nice problem!

*David Eales*

### The seven Junctions losing their lights

1. Western Road with Montague Way, Southall
2. King Street and Western Road/Havelock Road, Southall
3. Windmill Lane/Windmill Avenue and St. Bernard's Hospital access, Southall
4. Gunnersbury Lane with Bollo Lane, Acton
5. Acton Lane/North Acton Road and Barrets Green Road, Acton
6. Ruislip Road and Greenford Avenue, Hanwell/Cleveland
7. Twyford Avenue and Creffield Road, Acton

## Left Turn on Red

Boris Johnson is considering whether to legalise cyclists turning left at traffic signals even when they are red. In Ealing Cycling Campaign's response earlier this year, we said:

"This is a measure which we support, provided it is made totally clear that pedestrians who are still crossing on their green phase have priority. This arrangement operates satisfactorily in other countries – indeed in the USA right turn on red is the norm, subject to the proviso that pedestrians have priority.

Similarly, cyclists should be allowed to pass a red light at pedestrian crossings once all pedestrians have cleared.

This proposal is particularly applicable in outer London where at times there are often no pedestrians, and it would help everyone to allow cyclists to get on their way in advance of general traffic.

The corollary is that when pedestrians have a "red man" signal at a crossing, they should always give priority to traffic – something that sadly often does not happen when cyclists are approaching, apparently invisibly to pedestrians.

If all these measures are presented as a package they will be more acceptable to the public."

More recently, Boris's suggestion has been dismissed by the Cyclists Touring Club as an empty headline, that is unlikely to be accepted by Department for Transport and that is distracting effort from more important issues. What do you think? London's track record in leading the rest of UK on such issues has been good, including the congestion charge, the Oyster card covering all travel modes, and cycle-friendly measures such as allowing contraflow cycling in some streets. Have other countries that allow turning on red really got it so wrong that our DfT will dismiss the idea?

*Peter Mynors*

## Next Meeting

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd June 2009. At Cafe Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL, at 7.30 pm. All members welcome.

# Bike Week

## 13th - 21st June

### Sat 13th - Dr Bike & Stall, Ealing Broadway

From 10am until 4pm join us on Ealing Green, between High Street and Bond Street, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike and resolve any minor problems. There also be cycle maps, leaflets and people on hand to give advice and guidance on all things cycling. (Event takes place on Ealing Green, W5 5DA)

### Sat 13th - Dr Bike Hanwell Clocktower,

From 10am until 5pm come along to the Clocktower of Hanwell, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike and resolve any minor problems.

### Sun 14th - Ride to the West London Greenfest

Leaving at 10am from Ealing Town Hall steps join us on a ride to Hammersmith to see the West London Greenfest, there will be music, food, and numerous stalls celebrating all things "green". (Meet outside Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 2BY)

### Tue 16th - Doctor Bike Haven Green

From 12pm until 7pm join us on Haven Green opposite Ealing Broadway Station, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike and resolve any minor problems.

### Tue 16th - Cheese, Wine, and Bonfire Ride

Leaving at 7pm from Ealing Town Hall steps. Join us for a short hour or so spin around the canals ending up for some nibbles and anything else you care to bring along at the picnic area on the canal. Bring lights! (Meet outside Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 2BY)

### Wed 17th - Doctor Bike Haven Green

From 2pm until 8pm join us on Haven Green opposite Ealing Broadway Station, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike and resolve any minor problems.

### Wed 17th - Sunset Ride

Leaving at 7pm from Ealing Town Hall steps join us for a ride to Richmond Hill for a drink at the Roebuck, and to see the sun set on nearly the longest day of the year. Bring lights! (Meet outside Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 2BY)

### Sat 20th - Doctor Bike at Acton Market

From 10am until 3pm join us in Acton Town Centre in the market square, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike and resolve any minor problems.

### Sunday 21 June - Family Borough Ride

Leaving at 10am from Ealing Town Hall steps join us for a child friendly ride around the borough keeping to the tow paths and quietest roads. We end in Pitshanger Park - so bring a picnic and frisbees! Certificates for all children who join in. (Meet outside Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 2BY)

### Beyond Bike Week

Ealing Cycling Campaign organises leisure rides every month. For more details visit our web site.

Ealing Cycling Campaign  
[www.ealingcycling.org.uk](http://www.ealingcycling.org.uk)