

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
February 2011

Ealing's Cycling Revolution



Ealing's new cycle shop, 'There Cycling' opens in Hanwell



Eco-friendly cycle repairs. James Nelson's Cycleserve

We may not have the cycling infrastructure of Holland or Denmark but two Ealing entrepreneurs are setting out to bring the Northern European cycling revolution to Ealing.

In September last year, lifelong cyclist James Nelson started a mobile cycle repair business, and in March LCC member Jim Kent opened a European themed cycle shop, There Cycling in Hanwell. We reported on There Cycling in the last issue. Since then, Jim has stocked up with an impressive array of continental bikes and opened for business. If you're looking for a Cargo bike, women's bicycles, or the sort of cycles the discerning Dutch and Danes are riding, then this is the place. You can find the shop opposite Wickes in Boston Road, Hanwell, or on the internet at: www.there-cycling.co.uk.

James Nelson's, Cycleserve mobile repair service is also based in Hanwell. We asked James to tell us all about it:

Can you briefly describe the service you're offering?

Cycleserve offers eco-friendly mobile bicycle repairs, maintenance and servicing in West London. We offer a range of services from on-the-spot puncture repair to full servicing, strip and rebuild. We collect and deliver bicycles using our specially designed zero-pollution cycle-drawn trailer. This reduces our carbon footprint and keeps us nice and fit!

How did you come up with the idea?

I wanted to offer a mobile repair and maintenance service while minimising the environmental impact of the business so it seemed logical to use a bicycle and trailer as a means of transportation.

What research / training did you do?

The industry standard 'Cytech Level 2 Bicycle Mechanic' training course.

How much will it cost to get a bike repaired?

Prices start from £20 for a quick puncture repair, and an average service will cost about £65. We're happy to work with you to achieve the best result for your budget.

Tell me a bit about yourself: What

bike do you ride? Earliest cycling memory? Favourite cycling moment?

I was born in Ealing and I've lived here for most of my life. I ride a sensible shopping bike for work and a ridiculous single speed mountain bike for pleasure! I also have a beautiful 50 year old Viking road bike which I lovingly restored - it only comes out on sunny days! My favourite cycling moment was an epic descent to a glorious pub in mid Wales with the Westerley cycling club. My earliest cycling memory is excitedly riding around on my budgie (mini chopper) during the street party for the royal wedding in 1981, wheelies were more important to me than weddings at that age!

To contact James, call 07940 381 617 or go to www.cycleserve.co.uk

Next Meeting

We meet on the first Wednesdays of the month.

Our next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 6th April 2011 at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL.

The following meeting will be on Wednesday 4th May 2011 at the same time and place.

www.ealingcycling.org.uk



Police and Thieves

In November last year, Ealing Cycling Campaign member Brian Smith had his bicycle stolen. This is his account of the ensuing events

MONDAY 1st November - Day 1

At Morrison's supermarket. I would only be five minutes so I only locked my red Gary Fisher bike with just one lock, but I was half sensible and I deliberately chose a spot directly under the supermarket's surveillance camera.

I had been in the store for eight minutes. When I came out the railing was there but no Gazza! I phoned in the theft report on 999. Then I hassled the store manager who eventually tried to let me into the video room to view the CCTV footage, but the HR manager had gone off with the keys. I walked home.

TUESDAY 2nd November Day 2

I returned to Morrison's and viewed the CCTV footage. It had been dark, but I could clearly see my arrival and the bike being locked to the rail under the camera and then three minutes later, yes just three minutes after I arrived, the thief scooting off on my Gazza!

A friend drew my attention to the wonderful 'Bikeshd' web site where photos of all the bikes posted for sale on Ebay and Gumtree are posted together in chronological order. I trawled the site with no luck.

SATURDAY 6th Nov Day 6

I looked up Bikeshd and couldn't believe my eyes. There, posted on Gumtree the previous day, was a photo of my red Gazza. It had been stripped back to the basic Gary Fisher but there were at least five distinguishing marks to guarantee that this was my Gazza and there was a telephone number and a map. I formulated a plan with the police. I would phone the number in the morning, pretend to be interested in purchasing the bike, acquire the full address – I already knew it was in Watford – and then pass the information on to the police.

SUNDAY 7th November Day 7

I rang our friend, we will call him Paul. He told me that the bike had been sold the previous night, but that he had another bike. I asked if I could look at the bike in any case and then, suspiciously, the line went dead. I phoned Paul again and left a message on his voice mail. We took a slow drive to Watford.

When an advert is placed on Gumtree, with the advert Gumtree also post a map showing where the advert was placed. It turned out to be a small housing estate. Our phone pinged it was a text from Paul. He apologised his phone battery had run out. We replied: "What was his address?" And we made our way to Watford police station.

The phone pinged again the text said it was no longer convenient to meet with Paul.

Constable P B was allocated to us. He couldn't do anything today; he would need to get special permission to visit Paul. 'Might I be available tomorrow?' I replied to Paul's text, 'Ok another time and I might be around

Watford tomorrow?'

We left the police station. The phone pinged. It was Paul with his address.

I left the car at the bottom of the cul-de-sac and walked up to the address. The back gate was open with a big bloke standing there. On a covered deck he had about ten bikes and one of them was red. The conversation was very short, he said there is the Gary Fisher and that it had been sold and I said that is a pity because that bike is mine. He was a little stunned but I think he had been suspicious all along. I showed him the Bikeregister.com coding. He said that he had nothing to do with the theft and that he had bought the Gazza through Ebay for £150 from a man, we will call him Mark, in Southall.

WEDNESDAY 8th December Day 38

It's five and a bit weeks since the Gazza was stolen and I'm sad to say that I think the investigation has fizzled out. And why not, the bike is back it is wonderful and still the best bike I've ever owned. I'm glad the other bloke didn't really like it more than me and only stole it to sell it on and in a tiny way I have to thank him, he stripped all that stuff off, all £500 quids worth of it and because of that it is now lighter and more agile.

MONDAY 13th DECEMBER Day 43

I learned that the Hounslow police had attempted to pick up "the Suspect" at a local address (not in Southall). He wasn't there.

THURSDAY 30th DECEMBER Day 60

A police officer telephoned to explain that the other witness in Watford had decided not to give a statement and that the police didn't now have sufficient evidence to prosecute "the Suspect". I asked about the evidence from Gumtree and was told that police were unable to secure any.

SUMMING UP

I am left with the impression that I could have done better on my own! With the exception of my local neighbourhood team, I have been underwhelmed by the police involved. I had to push every step of the way. This theft can best be summed up by: Oh you have lost your bike. Here is the crime reference number. It's insured isn't it? Go, claim on your insurance and get a better bike!

Hopefully Brian's experience isn't typical. Another Ealing cyclist, Charlotte Barnes, had several cycles stolen in February and recovered them after seeing them advertised on e-bay. She was full of praise for the police - in particular their cycle task force, a dedicated team that tackles cycle theft.

The key to recovering your bike is to carry out the three Rs: Record your bike's frame number, and any other marks that can identify it. Register it with the police's online BikeRegister initiative, www.bikeregister.com. And report any theft promptly to the police.

You can read about Charlotte's experiences on her excellent blog: <http://bicycle-slut.wordpress.com>



In our first year over 100 people have attended our courses. We've already run a couple of our secondary lessons this year covering cleaning, brakes and gears and more are planned as the weather gets warmer. We're also finalising plans for in-depth full weekend courses aimed at people who are confident around their bikes but would like to continue to the next level; bottom bracket removal, headsets, fitting brakes, chains, all those things that you're vaguely aware of but lack the tools and confidence to tackle. We don't promise you'll never visit a bike shop again but this should inspire you to tackle those more involved items yourself. Email us at info@ealingbikehub.co.uk if you would like more details.

The introduction lessons will continue on the first Saturday of the month and don't forget to drop by if you just want to borrow some tools or buy some components.

David Eales

Rides Rides Rides...

Sunday 1st May 2011 Mystery Ride

Check www.ealingcycling.org.uk nearer the time for details.

Sunday 5th June 2011

A choice of two rides today:

Jubilee River Ride

Catch the train from Ealing to Maidenhead then ride along and around the Thames and the Jubilee rivers near Windsor. There will be picnicking so do pack some food and drink. Mostly car free on smooth riverside paths.

Leader: Colin

London Greenfair

Ride up to Horsenden Hill and then along the Paddington Branch of the Grand Union canal to The Regent's Park where the food and entertainment stalls of the London Greenfair will greet you. Ride back along the canal.

Leader: TBC

For both rides:

Time: Arrive from 9:45am for a prompt 10am departure.

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5