

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
June 2010

Following years of being asked for bicycle maintenance lessons in the borough Ealing Cycling Campaign have started regular sessions. We've run two very successful lessons already with very positive feedback so far. The format has undergone some fine tuning since the original plans at the start of the year, but the introduction to bicycle maintenance aims to show people how to diagnose faults, remove the rear wheel and fix a puncture. Classes consist of up to 8 people and 2 trainers and there are several additional volunteers on hand to help out during the practical sessions. From July onwards we're formally promoting the project outside of our members and of course during Bike Week we can now answer those tricky questions we've never really been able answer

"Do you run bicycle maintenance lessons?"

"Where can I get a second hand bike from?"

"Can I donate a bike to you?"



The answer is now simply "Yes – at the Ealing Bike Hub"

Later in the year we hope we can launch a community workshop, either at the end of the lessons or as a dedicated monthly session on a different day. People will be able to drop by and use our tools, buy spare parts and get help from us, we will also promote our social rides and provide help

and support to cyclists. The emphasis will be on getting people to use the tools themselves.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved so far, Harmi, David, Gursh, Murray, Tim, John, Pip, Dan, Michael and Alan. We're always after new help, either teachers or helpers during the day. Each session needs 2 teachers and 2 helpers and is always interesting and very fulfilling.

A reminder that we are also happy to take unloved bikes off your hands - so long as they don't need too much attention. We're also in touch with the police to take uncollected stolen bikes off their hands. We'll use these to practice on, fix up to resell etc.

All-in-all it promises to be quite a summer of cycling, and beyond.

Lessons are 10:00am till 2.00pm on the first Saturday of the month at the Greenford Resident's Association Hall, 18 Queens Avenue, Greenford. Full details at www.ealingbikehub.co.uk

David Eales

Bike Week

In addition to our rides and event - shown overleaf - Ealing Council Bicycle Support Team are running four Dr Bikes in June:

Sat 19th Hanwell Clock Tower 12 – 4 pm.

Tue 22nd Haven Green 3.45 - 7.45 pm.

Thu 24th Acton town centre outside supermarket 10 am – 4 pm.

Sat 26th Northolt Green Living Fair, Northolt Recreation Ground 11 am – 4 pm

Mayor of London's Skyride Ealing

The Mayor of London's Skyride Ealing on 18th July will be the biggest cycling event Ealing has ever seen. Last year's ride in Hounslow attracted 11,000 cyclists. Details of the ride were due to be announced on 25th May - after the press date for this newsletter - but Ealing Cycling Campaign will be playing its part to make the ride a success. We're bound to need lots of volunteers and marshalls. We'll post more information on our web site as soon as we get it: www.ealingcycling.org.uk

Local Election Debate



At our April meeting the transport spokespeople for the four main political parties outlined their policies for improving cycling in the borough. In the election, Labour regained control of the council. Among their plans are more 20 mph zones and support for running the proposed Cycling Superhighway along the Uxbridge Road instead of the A40. You can read a full report on our web site.

In the picture are: David Millican (Conservative), Sarah Edwards (Green), Gary Malcolm (Liberal), and Bassam Mahfouz (Labour).

Haven Green

In response to complaints from local focus groups, the police are now rigorously enforcing the rule that cycling on footways is prohibited except where specifically signed as permitted. On-the-spot fines of £30 may be applied. ECC support the observance of this law as applied to footways beside public highways, but the rules are also being applied in some less clear-cut situations such as the diagonal paths across Haven Green. The east-west route is clearly signed as permissible to cycle on, but there is no such signing on the southwest to northeast paths. Be warned!

The alternative route is to cycle along the west and north sides of Haven Green. The bus/cycle lane along the north side is very unsatisfactory for cyclists, as it is in the middle of the road which can leave a cyclist exposed when the queue of traffic in the left hand lane dissipates. A cyclist who does not use the bus/cycle lane gets squeezed by eastbound traffic that is staying close to the kerb to avoid infringing the bus lane. This will be one of the topics raised when ECC meet the council next month.

Bike Week 19th - 27th June

Sat 19th - Dr Bike & Stall, Ealing Green

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 will also be people on hand to give advice on all things cycling, cycle maps, leaflets.

Sun 20th - Ride to Greenfest

A sociable group ride to the West London Greenfest by the river in Hammersmith. There will be everything from music to food to face-painting. Meet outside Ealing Town Hall. We set off at 10am.

Wed 23rd - Sunset Ride

Gentle ride along the river to watch the sun go down from Richmond Hill. Remember to bring your bike lights for the ride back. Meet outside Ealing Town Hall. Depart 7pm.

Sat 26th - Information Stall, Acton Market

From 10am to 3pm Information stall where you can pick up cycle maps and get your cycling questions answered.

Sat 26th - Green Living Fair

From 11am to 4pm Information stall.

Get cycling advice and pick up cycling maps and leaflets.

Northolt Recreation Ground, Newmarket Avenue, Northolt.

Family Rides

27 Jun, 11 Jul, & 22 Aug

Suitable for families with small children.

Quiet route to Pitshanger Park - bring a picnic.

Depart 10am Ealing Town Hall steps, return 3pm.

Calendar 2010

1st Wed of Month - Meet and chat

The best way to catch up on local cycling matters and campaigning is to come along to our monthly meetings - the food is great as well! 7.30pm downstairs Café Grove, 65 The Grove, Ealing, W5 5LL.

Social Rides

We run social rides suitable for a range of abilities and ages.

We invariably stop for lunch & coffee or just to enjoy the view! Rides depart from Ealing Town Hall steps at 10am.

Family Ride 27th Jun

Green Parks and Open Spaces 4th Jul

Family Ride 11th Jul

Ealing's Local Sky Ride 18th Jul

Great Buildings of West London 1st Aug

Family Ride 22nd Aug

Ruislip Lido 5th Sep

Museum Trip 3rd Oct

See website 7th Nov, 5th Dec

More info at www.ealingcycling.org.uk