

Rides and socials

March

March 25th

Cycle racing at Herne Hill Stadium

After a year's absence the international track meeting at Herne Hill Stadium on Good Friday is back. Hooray!!

<http://www.goodfridaymeeting.org.uk>

We will do a Wheelers ride down there to watch some world class bike racing on 25 March. Call me nearer the date to confirm a meeting up time.

Owen 020 7515 9905

All the rides below begin at 9am on TOP of the Green Bridge

Sat 26th March,

Easy 40 miles Chilterns weekend away revisited, In Beautiful Beechwoods.

April

Sat 9th April,

20 miles Hilly (Mountain Bike)
Off Road ride through Beechwoods in Chilterns, over ancient trails.

Sun. 10th April

Easy 30 mile ride through hop country and Oasthouses of Kent.
Relatively flat route.

Sun. 16th April

40 miles of big Chiltern Hills guided by local cyclist Brendon.

May

Sat. 14th May

20 miles Off Road hilly
Trails through woods.

Sat. 21st To Be Arranged,

Nice cafes for Breakfast, Lunch and Afternoon Tea, quite routes around Borough, This ride will include some unique places. A relaxed ride, chance for a natter and to see some local areas of interest. Might become regular if popular.

Sun 22nd May

Easy 30 mile quiet Thames Path ride to Weybridge for pub lunch. Ride all the way and train back. Wide paths, but not for racing bikes.

Most of above rides have train journeys out of London. Only in torrential rain will a ride be cancelled.

Short-Easy After Work Rides, around borough waterways and, quiet routes at a gentle pace.

6:30pm on top of Green Bridge.

Wed 27th April

Wed 18th. April

Wed 1st May

Join the pub socials after, and meet some new faces. On Wednesdays

27th April 9:30pm

Morgan Arms, Coburn St

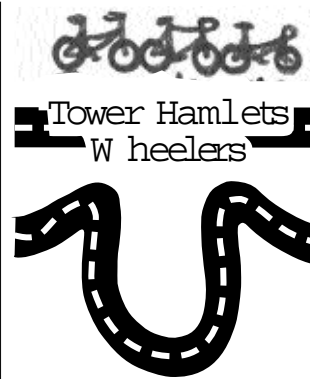
1st May 9:30pm

Palm Tree, Mile End Park

Call Steve text or email to confirm, or get further details week before a ride. Anybody interested in off-road riding, contact Steve.

The Green Bridge is in Mile End Park; it crosses Mile End Road near the junction with Grove Road and is the one that's yellow underneath.

Details of all events: venues, rides meeting times and train times are posted to the email group nearer the event dates. Otherwise phone Owen for further details of meetings and Steve for further details of rides and socials and to check that there have not been any cancellations. All contact details opposite.



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THW news

APRIL - MAY 2005

THE NEWSLETTER FOR TOWER HAMLETS WHEELERS • LONDON CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Crikey! the year has only just kicked off and already THWheelers have a busload of events already completed and a diary for the next year booked to bursting, a brief rundown shows how much our group has already completed:

Wed 19 January

Wheelers annual dinner, held as last year at the Dhaka Biriayani, with a special guest after dinner speaker Tony from Bicycle Magic.

Sat 29 January

Our monthly Bicycle maintenance workshop

Sun 6 February

Canterbury - Tonbridge - London
100 mile ride into Kent, well we only managed 77 but it was good.

Sat 19 February

An Easy Ride this time, 30 miles around Tenterden and Rye. Very flat ride, through marshes and Shirley Moor, historic towns, cream tea and scones.

Thur 24 February

Gary, Carol and Steve attend the CRISP meeting at the British Library. A workshop designed to help activists get the most out of the cycle route planning process. CRISP: Cycle Route Implementation Stakeholder Plan

Fri 25 February

Following the initiative taken by THWheelers campaigner Colin Waters, Colin and Gary attend a 3 hour meeting at City Hall with staff from the Cycling Centre for Excellence, Community safety and The Met Police among others to discuss the pros and cons of various anti-cycle theft schemes, and the possibility of bringing more

pressure to bear in an effort to discourage the illegal trading of stolen cycles in Brick Lane.

Sat 26 February

Wheelers bicycle maintenance workshop at 'The Boxing Club', Limehouse Town Hall

Sat 5 March

Steve's Ten Hills in London ride, just what it said on the tin

Sun 6 March

Steve's ride up the Lea Valley to Cambridge

Wed 9 March

THW AGM and social, story overleaf.



Summer 2004, we staged an early morning cyclists breakfast for canary Wharf commuters

OK, just a brief rundown, which ignores the monthly group meetings.

This summer we are already booked to operate the TWO Dr Bike stalls at the London Leukaemiathon, an all day charity ride around town. Then there is the promoting of cycling at local festivals and events as well as running Steve's excellent programme of rides, plus my own coast to coast Wide Ride in May.

The variety of events we manage to operate probably reflects the slightly bizarre social dynamics that occur in a group like Wheelers, with people from very different backgrounds coming together and having possibly only one thing in common, *the use of a bicycle*.

However in common with other borough groups we have no contact with most of our membership, this is probably by members own choice, but if it is not, and you feel just a little curious about what we get up to, try coming to one of the after work rides that begin in the Spring (see back page). These are at a slow pace, and leave enough puff for speech to be at least a possibility.

With a membership of around 330 souls there are certainly a lot of paid up members of the group who have never been to a THWheelers event.

So, as this Summer approaches, make a resolution, if you have never met up with anybody in our group before, come to just one Wheelers event this year, maybe lend a hand, no experience is necessary, or just drop by to say hello, you will be welcome.

“Jagonari Cycles” project launched... ..then we socialised



Launching Jagonari Cycles, included in the picture is professional cycle instructor Patrick Field from the London School of Cycling, Lucy Davies of the LCC and Green Party member of the GLA Jenny Jones, making her first guest appearance of the day for Wheelers. The little fellow on the right appears to be checking the frame number

Wheelers are involved in an exciting new bicycle training project called "Jagonari Cycles!" launched on Wednesday, 9 March.

The project has been set up for users of the Jagonari Centre, a Bengali women's community resource centre on Whitechapel High Street. Fifteen local Bengali women, all relatively novice on two wheels, will be receiving free training and access to a pool of bikes, with the help of funding from the Wheelers Bike Buddy Scheme and the support of the London Cycling Campaign's Community Cycling Project.

Lucy Davis of the London Cycling Campaign explained: "Women who sign

up will begin cycle training between now and April. At the end of April, when the weather improves, there'll be a women-only group ride in the local area. Then there will be rides every month to help build awareness of the training scheme."

Nurjahan Khatun of the Jagonari Centre said: "I studied in Cambridge and all my friends there cycled but, at the time, my parents felt

it wasn't safe for me to ride a bike. I regret that now so when this project was first mentioned I was really keen to take part.

"I was really inspired by an older friend who's a teacher. She wears full Muslim dress but still manages to cycle everywhere.

"By learning to ride bikes we're bringing down social stereotypes and encouraging other women to take part."

The pool of eight bright orange bikes have been made available to the project by the good going travel awareness campaign. The bikes were donated to the campaign last year by the Netherlands Board of Tourism and will

now be fulfilling their role of encouraging cycling. Bicycle Magic, a local cycle shop which neighbours the Jagonari Centre, will be ensuring the bikes are kept in top condition.

The all important cycle training will be carried out by the London School of Cycling and by Youth Action UK.

Jenny Jones, London Assembly Member for the Green Party, attended the launch and enthused: "Cycling makes you much healthier. You're getting fresh air and exercise and it's better for the city too. We have major pollution and congestion and we all have to play our part in improving our city.

"I'm looking forward to joining the women on their first ride!"

Even before anyone had got on a bike, it was inspiring to see the effect the project and the introduction of cycling into the Centre was beginning to have.

Stay tuned throughout the spring and summer for updates on how the women are progressing with their riding.

Owen

Later on that Wednesday we held this year's Wheelers AGM and social at Limehouse Town Hall. About 16 attended with a good mix of regulars and those that have previously come along on rides or to the workshop.

The evening kicked off with Lucy Davis, LCC's Community Cycling Officer giving an overview of some of the projects she's involved in: youth projects in Camden and Islington, community bicycle workshops and of course Jagonari Cycles.

Wheelers committee officers then gave brief reports of their respective activities over the past year before everyone braced themselves for the excitement of the committee elections. All is stable and constant at the Wheelers core for another year though, with the same willing souls continuing in their posts:

Co-ordinator: Owen Pearson

Treasurer: Dave Allison

Secretary: Gary Cummins

Press Officer: Kerry Noble

Campaigns Co-ordinator: Colin Waters

Newsletter Editor: Gary Cummins

Workshop Co-ordinator: Caroline Fenton

Rides & Socials Co-ordinator: Steve Collins

Events Co-ordinator: Keith Jones

With precise timing, not previously seen at a Wheelers meeting, it was now 8pm and time for our special guest speaker, Jenny Jones, rounding off her day as she had started it, in Tower Hamlets, talking about cycling. As the Mayor's Road Safety Ambassador she places reducing casualties on the road high on the agenda. She spoke positively of the Assembly's improvements made in road safety, police cycling, schools training, parking and safer routes to schools. Jenny then fielded many questions, offering assistance to help out with some specific issues.

An hour had flown by – it was now time for some refreshments and so the socialising began! The morning and evening's events produced lots to talk about, including what Wheelers would be getting up to this year. It was great to be amongst so much enthusiasm.

Many thanks to our guests, Lucy Davis and Jenny Jones, our Boxing Club friends at Limehouse Town Hall, in particular, our hostess for the evening Elena, and to Wheelers Carol and Keith for providing a great spread of snacks and drinks. With the Jagonari Cycles launch starting things off, this was a day of good cycling vibes in Tower Hamlets!

Owen

Relieving congestion

● 17 Feb 2003:

With the introduction of the central London Congestion Charge, Tower Hamlets Wheelers produced a 9m long banner proclaiming "Cycle for FREE!" - a clear message for drivers wishing to avoid the congestion charge. The banner was hung from the Green Bridge, Mile End spanning the A11 that leads directly into the zone.



● 17 Feb 2004: One year later another banner was produced highlighting the annual cost of driving daily into the zone. This and the original banner were displayed at the zone boundary at Aldgate Gyratory.



● 17 Feb 2005: The 2nd anniversary and the banners were displayed again, this time at the zone boundary at the Shoreditch High Street-Great Eastern Street.

Further details and photos of the events can be found by following the links below:

www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk/cycle_for_free/

