

Tower Hamlets Wheelers are a local cycling campaign group. Our main objectives are:

- to encourage more people to cycle
- improve conditions for cyclists
- to raise the profile of cycling in the East End

This involves consulting with the local council, TfL and other authorities. We also run cycling community projects and organise social rides and events to help people cycle more and make their cycling easier.

Contact us at: wheelers@wheelers.org.uk

Find us at www.wheelers.org.uk,
[facebook.com/towerhamletswheelers](https://www.facebook.com/towerhamletswheelers) and
twitter.com/thwheelers

Bicycle Maintenance Workshop

At Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road, on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 11.00am to 3.00pm

Maintenance advice supplied for those who want to learn
 Tools & help supplied for those who have DIY repairs to carry out
 Tea, cake & chat supplied for all

A FREE service run by Tower Hamlets Wheelers, your friendly, local cycling group. Come along and give your bike the care and attention it deserves.

Upcoming workshop dates: 15 December, 19 January, 16 February

Full details at wheelers.org.uk/workshop

East London Cyclist

www.wheelers.org.uk

DEC 2012 / JAN 2013

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS WHEELERS • LONDON CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Thames Crossing

TfL are consulting on proposals for a new East London river crossing. This is aimed at providing more road capacity, and the proposals consist of a new ferry at Silvertown (replacing the Woolwich ferry) and a new tunnel between the Greenwich Peninsula and Silvertown. You can find more details at:

<http://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/rivercrossings/consultation>

The result will inevitably be more road traffic in East London, which seems to be a step in the wrong direction to us....

London to Cape Town on a bicycle



Long-time Wheelers workshop attendee, Kumi, has set off on an epic journey riding to Cape Town.

Kumi has been on several touring adventures before including crossing Turkey. This time she and her fellow adventurer Dan aim to cycle around 1700km per month, hoping to arrive in August 2013. You can follow their journey at london2capetown.net where they are posting updates as often as they can.

They are also looking to use the ride as a means of raising money for St Catherine's Hospice. Visit their donation page for full details. Good luck to them both from all of us at Tower Hamlets Wheelers!

Mile End BMX track opens



The new BMX track at Mile End Park was officially opened on 13th October as part of charity Access Sport's BMX Legacy Project. It was funded by Tower Hamlets Council, Access Sport and the Mayor of London's office, and offers cyclists of all abilities the chance to learn and develop BMX riding skills.

One issue was that with the clocks going back this month; it would not be possible for school and youth groups to use it in the evenings once it was dark. So James, Sustrans' Bike It officer for Tower Hamlets, initiated a fund-raising drive to buy temporary floodlights. A great talk at Sustrans London office by round the world adventurer Al Humphreys raised nearly £1000 and then following twitter appeals and a press release, Canary Wharf Group offered the balance of the funds, so hopefully soon there will be light.

It is also open to the public – it's not fenced off from the park (one of Wheelers' committee members had a sneaky go on a Brompton - well at least over the easiest section – before being completely upstaged by some enthusiastic young BMX-ers with the right sort of bike!).

Crap Cycle Lanes: Westfield Honoured!

If you've ever cycled to Westfield you will know the design chaos that awaits as you approach the multi million pound shopping mall. No expense spared for cars but bikes get treated to random planning events that switch on and off like psycho disco lights. So you might have thought the Olympics was a chance to build a proper cycling legacy for the DMZ that is Westfield? Not a bit of it.



It was a moment of crazy anticipation as I approached one of the most ludicrous cycle lanes in the country, when Westfield reopened its parking in September after the Olympics. Would this nutty cycle lane still be there? oh yes! It's all of 5 bike lengths long. It's nestled under a bridge, by a fence, on a roundabout. It starts on the roundabout. And stops. On the roundabout. A few yards later.

Thank you planners. We are grateful. This local treat has now been honoured by the internationally renowned Cycle Facility of the Month website. <http://www.warringtoncyclecampaign.co.uk/>

Terry

Borough loses bike shop

Recently the borough's oldest surviving bike shop Daycocks in Roman Road closed. I'm not sure how long they have been trading in Roman Road but I think they opened in the 70s. No news why they closed but their other branch in Stoke Newington has also closed and I've not seen them in their usual spot in Brick Lane.

Mr Jones

Bethnal Green tube cycle parking

A planning permission application has been submitted by LBTH to provide much needed cycle parking at Bethnal Green tube station. The scheme involves demolishing the disused toilet block in Bethnal Green Gardens and providing parking for 78 bicycles.

Planning application details: PA/12/02233.

A decision is expected to be made by the planning committee during November 2012.

Owen

Join London Cycling Campaign

Becoming a member supports the LCC's vital campaigns, which help improve our city for you and all Londoners.

PLUS you are provided with an unbeatable package of benefits e.g. bike shop discounts, 3rd party insurance, which help make every day you ride your bike a better one.

Read out more about the benefits at lcc.org.uk/membership, and join today to help us double the voice of London cyclists

Ride Report: Dengie Marshes

Ride difficulty: Moderate, Ride distance: 40 miles
Number of riders: 23

The forecast for Sunday 21st October suggested a dry sunny day – provided you were west of London! So Wheelers headed east to Essex and donned their waterproofs.... 21 assembled at Liverpool Street station with a further two joining at Stratford keen to explore the end of the world that is Dengie Marshes. We disembarked from a rather crowded train (well it was once we had all got on) at Wickford and set off in two groups to ease crowd control and allow all those who needed to visit the station facilities.

The two groups met up near Woodham Ferrers but divided again to tackle the only real hill of the day - 200 feet - for a somewhat grey view over the Crouch estuary. Quiet lanes gave way to a section of busier roads around Cold Norton and Latchingdon but sadly there are no alternative roads for this section. As we left the busiest section behind us, the leading and slightly faster group took a detour to St Lawrence to look at the (grey) Blackwater estuary, giving the tail-enders a chance to catch up before the group arrived at Bradwell Waterside for lunch. Two options were available – the village pub and the marina bar – and the group split almost equally between the two. I chose the marina and they offered a good selection of lunch staples such as baked potatoes and toasted baguettes. We were entertained by a young kitten that had a great time swinging on and playing with pannier straps whilst outside the window we watched the weather and the boats.

Suitably fortified, we set off for the ancient St Peters Chapel. It's a fascinating place, still a consecrated chapel but happily left open for visitors to enjoy (and take shelter in) – I guess the remote location and the last 200 metres down a bumpy track puts off the vandals. From there we retraced our steps (or wheel revolutions) to Bradwell and then headed south over the Dengie Marshes. For the first time in the day we had the fairly strong wind on our backs which made a nice change. Still in two groups, we cycled small lanes and farm tracks to Burnham on Crouch, with Owen transferring neatly from one group to the other whilst he fixed the second puncture of the day. As we arrived in Burnham, the rain had become a bit persistent so a tea stop was a more popular option than looking around the town. We crowded into the Cabin Dairy café and conveniently occupied the 55 minutes to the next train home eating cake and drinking tea (which Wheelers always do so well). We all fitted fairly easily onto the local shuttle train to Wickford, and then were the beneficiaries of a surprisingly good customer service experience as the driver of the Liverpool St train patiently waited for all of us to struggle over the footbridge to make the advertised connection.

All in all rather a grey sort of day, grey cloud or drizzle all day, but as we said "much more atmospheric"!

Svitlana's Bike Restored

In November last year Brian Dorling and Svitlana Tereschenko were both tragically killed in collisions with trucks at Bow roundabout. 40 days after Svitlana's untimely death her family placed a 'ghost' bicycle in her memory at the place where she died. Unfortunately the bike was vandalised with the wheels, brakes and basket stolen principally because it was a vintage bike with hard to find spare parts, however, this lack of respect is inexcusable. With the permission of her family we removed the bike just before the council disposed of it and restored and repainted it.



On the anniversary of her death the bike was returned to Bow roundabout and her family, who had made the trip from the Ukraine, and her friends met to rededicate the bike which has now been placed on the railings above the canal towpath.

Wheelers would like to thank Colin Smith of Waltham Forest Bike Recycling, Steve Davies a friend of Wheelers and an unnamed London taxi driver for their generous help with the bike's restoration. We would also like to thank Andrij Bebko for acting as the family liaison and RebelRebel of Broadway Market for their kind donation of flowers.

