

730 Members, 239 on the e-group,
24 icag-eng, 13 icag_veloteers

www.icag.org.uk

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Veloteers success



We were so pleased with the turnout for the Veloteers' second meeting on 10th November. Everyone took away at least one action from the night. Some have already started; for instance, one has already taken some video footage of his daily commute! Veloteers can also keep in touch with each other by the yahoo group email group. They can join by sending a blank email to: icag_veloteers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. There's also a Face book group to keep in contact. www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=115293835164185. The ICAG website will also contain useful information. We hope to have another event in the spring when we can all catch up with our actions. Watch all the spaces for more details. W www.icag.org.uk, go to Local Recourses, then Veloteers.

10 years ago

Islington Cyclist's Forum. There's a report of the fourth one. We had invited councillors, Sustrans, LCC, local developers and a Health Trust. Perhaps something we should think about again sometime in the future?



Council Cuts

At the Council/ICAG/Living Streets liaison meeting recently, council officers outlined big changes to the way cycling infrastructure was going to be funded. First of all, council senior management has removed £200K of funding from the current financial year's cycling related projects. As a result, all but 4 of the permeability schemes have been put on held; those remaining schemes are going ahead because they are TfL (bike hire project) directly funded.

Funding for road maintenance has also been slashed!

In the future, funding is going to be ward based and local councillors are going to be much more involved, presumably with an eye of electoral impact. Officers are packaging up enhancements ward by ward and have drawn a lot of ideas from our map*, so we are told. All money coming into the council whether it be via the Local Implementation Plan funding (from TfL) or from a developers S.106 agreement will be allocated to these enhancements.

*To look at our map go to www.icag.org.uk then Local Resources, then ICAG Hazards Map. You can add your own suggestions.

An ICAG member comments...

Originally Cllrs Andrew Cornwell and Katie Dawson secured £500K or so for permeability schemes and it's not at all clear whether that has been reassigned, squandered, or misappropriated. Unfortunately neither Andrew nor Katie are still elected members. The ward based funding fits in very well with the whole concept of the veloteers on one hand. On the other, it does mean that we will have to engage with councillors and maybe even promise to vote for them if we want to get them to do anything for "an irresponsible minority group that terrorises the walking electorate." Of course when cycling levels reach Copenhagen levels, and we've used the last drop of oil, it will all be so different....

Cycle Hire Stage 2

Phase 2 of the cycle hire scheme will extend eastwards and Islington expects to put in 2 or 3 more docking stations which will provide 170 more docking points. One of those docking stations might be at Islington Green. Send suggestions about where to locate or enlarge others to C Will Umney
E will.umney@islington.gov.uk

Charity Rides

Centrepont have been chosen by Arsenal FC as their Charity of the Season. Rides are being organized from Paris and Amsterdam, finishing at the Emirate Stadium, 27-30 May 2011. More about the rides? W www.classictours.co.uk, click on Challenges, then select May and scroll down for Centrepont. Interested in supporting this? C Steve Parslow
T 7423 6866
E s.parslow@centrepont.org. More about Centrepont? W www.centrepont.org.uk

Jonathan's Christmas Mystery Ride



A gentle trundle from the Angel to Trafalgar Square (where minced wine and mulled pies will be served) and back, taking in some places which form part of the mystery to be solved in a pub at the end. There are prizes of a bikey nature to be won, though not a whole bike.

Entry to the ride, and thereby the chance to win a prize, is £2 per person. All of this will go to a charity for speech-impaired children: Afasic.

Meet at The Angel in the N1 Centre Liverpool Road
Sat 11th December
5pm.

Booking essential!

C Jonathan

M 07946 261165

T 7704 1884 by 10th December.

Please bring a pen. You'll need lights, so why not wear something Christmassy?



If you can't make the ride, hope you enjoy the holiday anyway!

Christian Woolmer writes...

I always wondered why, given the high rate of bike theft in London, I had never actually seen one in action. I always make a point of looking at people unlocking bikes and checking on bike stands, so it seemed odd, just as I have never been called for jury service.

But today that changed. I spotted my first thief in full action. Well, not quite. At the bike stand opposite Russell Square tube station, a young man, about 25 with black sweater and jeans, was busily undoing the coil of one of those cables that fit through a D lock. But I thought he looked suspicious and nervous, and spotted that the coil was cut through. He jumped on the white Marin bike and headed off, though he circled around first, oddly. What to do?

I unlocked my bike that was on the stand next to where the Marin had been, and headed off in pursuit, expecting that he would be out of sight. But he was not; quite the opposite. He was in the next street, accompanied by a younger man in a pink sweater. I stayed a bit behind following

them and called 999. I got through straight away to a helpful lady who, though, did not know the area as she had no idea of the street names I was giving. The two young men were going slowly and then separated and I followed Black Sweater on the bike. He was going very slowly, and I kept giving the street names to the operator, while hoping the cops would come quickly.

Then Black Sweater met up with Pink Sweater, and gave him the bike. Although Blackie had done the cutting and stealing, I decided to stay with the bike in order to ensure there was evidence. They had not noticed me following, and Pinkie went very slowly through a couple of council estates. I kept the 999 line open which the operator was happy to do.

Eventually, after crossing a couple of main roads, he stopped outside a block of flats in Northdown Street, a side road off Pentonville Road ['spell that for me please', said the operator] and pushed the bike in just as the cops arrived. They went into the block but as they had come with sirens blaring, Pinkie had disappeared, but the bike was in the courtyard of the flats. The cops tried to go after Pinkie but I suspect they did not find him as there was a back entrance. I asked the cops where they would take the bike and they said Holborn police station.

I returned to the scene of the crime and left a message to the victim on his lock. The chap, Ian, called me a couple of hours later and I told him the story. He was convinced he had locked the frame of his £350 bike to the stand with the D lock, but he has just retrieved his bike from the cop shop 'minus one spoke' – so silly fellow had locked his wheel with the D lock. A lesson to us all. Best to lock both cable and D lock through the frame.

Ian told me that he had already lost one bike from the stand opposite Russell Square, so clearly a dangerous area and requires two locks. The stands outside the Renoir cinema around the corner are, I think, another dodgy area.

[Shortened]

The Little Green Ride

Description: Easy-paced rides of around 30 miles
Date: 3rd Sunday in the month
Start: 10.10 a.m. Finish: 5-6 p.m.
Place: Finsbury Park overland station
C Stephen Taylor
T 07977 235 735

Cycle Workshop Dates

Place: Sunnyside Ecology Gardens corner of Sunnyside Rd and Hazelville Rd, N19 (off Hornsey Rise)
Date: 4th Wednesday of each month (except August and December)
Time: 7 – 9.30 p.m.
Cost: £1 (50p unwaged) per session towards costs
C Adrian Williams
T 07810 211 902

ICAG monthly meeting

If you've something to say about cycling in Islington, or just want to listen, come along to the ICAG monthly meeting.

Place: Islington Town Hall
Date: 2nd Wednesday of every month
Time: 7.30-9.30 pm
C Alison Dines
T 020 7226 7012
E alisondines@clara.co.uk
Agenda items for meetings should reach Alison Dines by the Saturday before the meeting.

Reporting Potholes

This works! In Islington, phone 020 7527 2000 or go to www.islington.gov.uk and click on report a street problem. Rest of London, phone 0845 305 1234 or go to www.tfl.gov.uk, click on road users, then on report a street fault.

Two ICAG Email Groups

If you wish to discuss any of the topics covered in Islington Cyclist in more detail then why not subscribe to the ICAG email list? The list enables subscribers to receive news promptly and the opportunity to give and receive feedback. If you would like to participate, send an email to:

E: icag-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

We have another yahoo group concerned mainly with the engineering projects that we are being consulted about. If you want to join this one send an email to:

E: icag-eng-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

See front page for Veloteer contact details

Contribute to Islington Cyclist

Please send any articles or images to:
E: 249keith@waitrose.com
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of ICAG. Thanks to all contributors.
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