



# ISLINGTON CYCLIST

The newsletter of the Islington Cyclists' Action Group



ICAG is the Islington group of the London Cycling Campaign

Issue 62

February/March 2007

## Council News

William Pountney has been appointed an Assistant Cycling Officer by the Council. He will be mainly organising and delivering Level 1 and Level 2 cycle training.

Training in schools is really taking off. Children are now taking cycle training as part of school curriculum rather than signing up for holiday courses. Islington has received some reasonable funding for cycle training for 2007/2008. For more details

C: Rupert Merryweather

T: 020 7527 2242

E: rupert.merryweather@islington.gov.uk

## Watch the streets

Rupert Merryweather, the Council Cycling Officer is organising a pilot scheme for marking cycle stands in the Camberwell and Angel area. They'll carry a sign to suggest cyclists lock both wheels to the frame.

## Useful tfl website?

[www.streetfaults.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.streetfaults.tfl.gov.uk) is "a site to report a wide variety of faults, from potholes and faulty traffic lights..." Has anyone used this? If so, have you had any success?

## Streets for people, not for cars

Two recent decisions by Islington Council to pedestrianise public spaces show that the idea of more 'people-friendly streets' is spreading.

At **Farringdon station**, a scheme was approved just before Christmas to remove motor traffic from the area immediately in front of the station to give access to pedestrians and cyclists only. The scheme, costing £100,000, is the first of two stages intended to make upgrade the streetscape – new cycle parking will be included.

The north side of **Islington Green** between Upper Street and Essex Road will also be closed to through vehicle traffic. A dedicated two-way cycle lane will finally answer ICAG's long-standing criticisms about restricted cycle access here. Again, new cycle stands will also be put in.

Meanwhile in **Herbal Hill EC1**, local residents, businesses and Councillors have united to ensure the temporary road closure will be made permanent to stop rat-running traffic.

For more information about these schemes, please contact:

C: Andrew Cornwell

T: 07753 620 682

E: andrew.cornwell@virgin.net

## Committee elections

ICAG's Committee elections will be held at our AGM in March (details next column). If you would like to contribute more to the work of LCC in Islington by joining the committee, please contact the Co-ordinator, Alison Dines (see panel on right), for an informal discussion.

ICAG invites all members to our Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 March, 7.30pm, at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1.

### Agenda:

1. To receive Annual Report.
2. To receive Annual Accounts.
3. Election of new Management Committee, comprising:
  - Co-ordinator (Chair)
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Four other members
4. Any other business.

### Guest speaker at 8.30pm:

Boris Johnson MP will speak on local and national cycling issues.

### Drinks and snacks will be served!

For more information please contact the ICAG Co-ordinator:

C: Alison Dines

T: 020 7226 7012

E: alisondines@clara.co.uk

## Home needed for bike project

*We're looking for premises for a bike project that will involve people repairing their own bikes and recycling old ones. Do you know anywhere? Contact Rupert Merryweather – details above on the left.*

## Maintenance classes

Ongoing classes all day one Saturday in February/March according to demand. More details from Jonathan on 07946 261165.

## Don't forget Critical Mass!

Our feeder ride leaves Islington Town Hall, Upper Street promptly at 6.15pm on the last Friday of every month.

## Coast to Coast and Mouth to Mouth Challenge?

It's a week long 350 mile fund raising bike ride to raise funds and awareness of the charity Aphasic – *unlocking speech and language*. From 16 - 23 June 2007, the route is from Yarmouth to Barmouth ending along the spectacular bike path from Dolgellau and over the bridge to Barmouth. Costs £110 and a minimum £250 sponsorship. More details from Jonathan on 07946 261165.

## Bike baiting

An ICAG member visited Victoria (Canada), where police had launched a city-wide 'bait bike' programme. They had very good results. How about a similar scheme here in London (city-wide – not just in individual boroughs)? Would ICAG, LCC and others promote this concept to the GLA and the Met Police?

## www.immobilise.com

You can register your bike on this website and may reduce your insurance.

## Bike Polo Comes to London

This was the first ever Oxford versus London knockabout. It took place at a hard netball area in Clapham Common and I saw a three-a-side game starting up. Apparently this is the optimum number as it avoids a congested pitch. The Oxford cyclists were a friendly bunch and one fella acted as a gentle coach, eventually getting a separate game underway. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves despite there being a couple of minor spills. Bike polo, as practiced on that day, was a fairly sedate affair with no shouting, swearing or fighting, which I found really appealing. There's more at [www.pimpmylallet.com](http://www.pimpmylallet.com)

Chris Ashby

## The Christmas ride



On one of the coldest days of the winter so far, six people braved the weather and rode to Trafalgar Square to join in the carol singing there - taking in the Christmas lights of Marylebone High Street, Oxford Street and Bond Street on the way. Many thanks to Rose and Jonathan for the much appreciated mulled wine and mince pies!

Alison Dines

## Little Green Ride Dates

**Description:** Easy-paced rides of around 30 miles  
**Date:** every Sunday fortnight  
**Start:** 10.10 a.m. Finish: 5-6 p.m.  
**Place:** Finsbury Park overland station  
**Contact:** Sue  
**Telephone:** 020 7729 5409

## 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  
**Contact:** Adrian Williams  
**Telephone:** 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 p.m.  
**Contact:** Alison Dines  
**Telephone:** 020 7226 7012

Agenda items for meetings should reach Alison Dines by the Saturday before the meeting.

## ICAG Email Group

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](mailto:icag-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## Islington Cyclist by Email

If you've enjoyed reading this issue of Islington Cyclist – but don't live in the borough and so don't get a paper copy – you can now receive our newsletter electronically. All you need to do to be added to the circulation list is send an email to:

**E:** [islingtoncyclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:islingtoncyclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## Contribute to Islington Cyclist

Please send any articles or images to:

**E:** [keith.macfarlane@islington.gov.uk](mailto:keith.macfarlane@islington.gov.uk)

Many thanks to all contributors to this newsletter

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