

## RIDES & EVENTS

**Ride Report** Saturday 20 Jan.  
Green Bridge - Waltham Abbey

Five of us assembled at the Green Bridge just after 9:30am - Wheelers regulars Tracy and Carl, Newham cyclist Andre, Charlotte who'd been on a Wheelers Kent ride, and myself, on machines ranging from ladies' shopper to chunky mountain bike, via hybrids and a tourer.

The after-effects of last Thursday's storms were everywhere, twigs and branches lying across paths. At Tottenham we had to get off our bikes and push them gingerly along the one narrow section of towpath not blocked by an enormous branch. We were glad that the wind was at our backs as we set out. The downside of this was lots of puddles and mud - my bike looked like I'd been riding cyclo-cross - and the inevitable slog back into the wind later.

I shouldn't really have been surprised when the National "Cycle" Network signs through Victoria Park directed us into a permanently locked gate, with no alternative route directions.

We kept a good medium pace going north along the Lea Valley cycle path, but we were still able to enjoy the scenery.

Between Springfield Marina and Tottenham locks we saw more swans than any of us had ever seen in one place at one time. Ornithologists may know why this may be? We didn't know the cause but we enjoyed the sight.

We reached Waltham Abbey just after 11am. There's always a sense of satisfaction in escaping from the M25 under your own pedal power. It was the first time that Tracy and Charlotte had done this. I chose, out of the many cafes in Waltham Abbey, the one furthest away from the canal, but I reckon the tea and the bacon butties were worth it, plus an enormous plate of chips.

After our tea stop, Carl left us to ride on to his grandparents' in Sawbridgeworth. The rest of us headed back south along the Lea Valley. This was when we properly noticed the headwind, although more irritating was the low sun reflecting off the canal and the many puddles. These things plus a few mechanical problems slowed down our return journey. Tracy left us at Tottenham Hale to meet up with friends in

Walthamstow. South of Springfield we started playing leapfrog with a cyclist from Hackney, out on her first bike ride in ages. Andre was very good at giving her directions and advice, and may have made another LCC recruit.

All in all a good morning and early afternoon out. Good weather, good company, good scenery, good food (in terms of taste if not health). Particular congratulations to Tracy and Charlotte for riding further than they have done before.

Matt

Please check the Wheelers Website for latest on rides. If you have an idea for a ride, a long/short weekend or an upcoming cycling event please email:

[newsletter@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk)

### RIDE Safety

Always tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back.  
Going alone to meet unknown others? Consider contacting Wheelers first.  
Always bring lights - esp. from Sept - May evening rides.  
Carry a puncture repair kit, spare tube and pump.  
Use 2 strong D Locks to secure bike to racks and solid objects.  
Ride safely and considerately esp. around pedestrians and on cycle paths

MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS  
LIMEHOUSE TOWN HALL  
11-3 LAST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH

### Contacts

**Coordinator**  
Owen Pearson  
07903 018970  
[owen@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk](mailto:owen@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk)

**Treasurer**  
David Allison  
**Rides Coordinator**  
Steve Collins  
07951 797845  
[steve@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk](mailto:steve@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk)  
**Newsletter distribution**  
Temp.  
07747 606481  
[newsletter@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@towerhamletswheelers.org.uk)

### Rides

**April 2007**  
**Friday, 6th April**  
Easy RIDE: Herne Hill Velodrome  
Good Friday Meeting  
Ride to Herne Hill to watch a great day of track racing. Details tba. at [www.goodfridaymeeting.org.uk](http://www.goodfridaymeeting.org.uk).  
Contact **Owen** 07903 018970.  
**Wednesday, 11th April**  
Monthly Wheelers Meeting  
Meet at (venue tba) 7.30-9.00pm - everyone welcome. Followed by a visit to a local pub from 9.15pm.  
Contact **Owen**.  
**Saturday, 28th April**  
Wheelers Bicycle Maintenance Workshop  
11.00am-3.00pm at Limehouse Town Hall.  
**Saturday, 28th April**  
RIDE: Matt's April Ride  
Full details to follow.  
Depart at 9.30am on top of the Green Bridge, Mile End Park  
Contact Matt call/text 07903 136128.



A large range of bikes, parts and accessories in stock by all you're favourite makers. Lots of space for you to browse and choose, with friendly help and advice.

6 Greatorex Street,  
Whitechapel London E1 5NF  
[www.bicyclemagic.com](http://www.bicyclemagic.com)

[www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk](http://www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER Distribution:** Please help? Only 10 minutes, Every two months. Temp. Contact: Ralph on 07747 606481

# East London Cyclist

The newsletter of Tower Hamlets Wheelers/ London Cycling Campaign MAR/APR 2007

## £40m CYCLING BOOST

### Ken promises a three year Green package

Just after the January newsletter went to print we were sent this press release from the Green Party's Jenny Jones. It certainly sounds promising.

The London Mayor has announced a multi-million pound boost for walking, cycling and climate change as part of an agreement with Jenny Jones and her London Assembly colleague, Darren Johnson, over his annual budget. The letter from Ken Livingstone includes:

- £40m boost for cycling over the next three years
- Cycle training for all primary school children who request it
- £4.6m extra for walking
- A major project to improve pedestrian signage
- £5.5m increase in money for school travel plans, car clubs and other traffic reduction measures
- £25m over three years for a climate change mitigation fund
- Ten more hydrogen buses and 60 low carbon vehicles
- Hybrid buses to become standard in London
- Trials for speed limiters to cover fleet cars, vans and buses
- More use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition machines to clamp down on illegal drivers
- Energy reduction to be prioritised in negotiations on PPP tube contracts

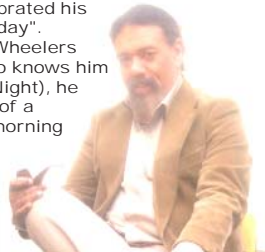
Jenny Jones, a Green Party member of the London Assembly said:

"This budget agreement builds on London's success in reducing the proportion of journeys made by car. We want to promote cycling and walking in London as the healthier and more environmental option. We want cleaner buses and safer roads. We want London to lead the way on climate change by showing that an environmentally friendly transport system is also the most efficient transport system." by email.

### WEDDING BELLS RING AND DENTURES WHISTLE....

Congratulations to Kerry, our press officer, and Phil on their wedding in February. We had allowed Kerry a sabbatical last year as she and Phil went travelling around the world (you may have read their articles in the London Cyclist) but now they are back and settling down, we hope, to many many happy years of married life. Best wishes from us all at Wheelers.

Towards the other end of "that awkward gap between the cradle and the grave" (apologies to A. Bennett, writer and cyclist) is one of Tower Hamlets Wheelers most dedicated members, mechanic, ride leader and all round top guy, **Keith Jones**. On Sunday 4th March he celebrated his 50th birthday as a "beige day". Having partied hard with Wheelers and just about anyone who knows him on 23rd February (Friday Night), he was still on the other end of a spanner on the Saturday morning at the monthly Wheelers Workshop. We send congratulations and heartfelt thanks for a job extremely well done!



### .....But..... on the other hand From the Guardian Wednesday 7th March 2007

London 2012 As the budgets for the Olympic reach truly Olympic proportions, Leslie Everest writing in the Guardian reports that the Olympic Delivery authority's "revised masterplan" has reduced the new Velopark from 34 to 8-10 hectares. Everest says' "...the scale of the revision undermines trust in the Olympic authorities. Those persuaded to set aside their original objections are feeling betrayed by the people who should be promoting their interests. At a time when Britains' track cyclists are promising a host of medals and Nicole Cooke's start to the new season proves that her ascent to the top of the world rankings last year was no fluke, it seems astonishingly short sighted." Ken Livingstone said in Feb

2005, "...the velopark will be built whether or not we get the Games". While everyone thought it was the £37 million build, one of the proposed "big five" venues ; it was of course, not confirmed.



Tower Hamlets Wheelers  
London Cycling Campaign





## Campaign: Canary Riverside - Cycle Route 1

**T**ower Hamlets Wheelers have been alerted by members to the continued total disruption to the Riverside Walk and Cycle Route 1 due to the closure of the pathway along the River by Canary Wharf Group CWG. Many letters and phonecalls to CWG have at last elicited a reply. The Path will not reopen, even temporarily due to the imminent development of the adjacent site.

The closure of the path, without warning on 11 December continues to cause both awkward and to a greater extent, dangerous alternative routes for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

Surprisingly, neither Sustrans, Tower Hamlets Council nor the London Assembly member for City and East, Cllr. John Biggs had been able to persuade CWG to re-open the path.

Working behind the scenes for the Wheelers Mick O'Rorke has been lobbying hard for the situation to be resolved. Mick says "Have they really considered the impact on people? Using this route on a regular basis, I am aware of all manner of people using this from cycling and walking commuters to local people taking their children to nearby nurseries, to tourists and people just generally ambling about enjoying this very pleasant area."

The answer is clearly, No! As their notices proclaim (top left), CWG are the landowners and it would appear that they can do what they like with their own property. In a reply to Mick on 21st February Anthony Partington MD of CWM asserts that the path has only ever been "temporary"! He continues "we opened this stretch ....voluntarily for many years.... while development plans... were drawn up, submitted and approved". Cyclists will continue to carry their cycles up the 33 steps (see January Newsletter) and follow a poorly prescribed route marked with a "D" and cycle up and down the ramp only just wide enough for a bus or use the underground roundabout. The route for pedestrians appears to use the footway under an office block but its not clear. Apparently, construction begins in April on the adjacent site walkway and river wall. The three months of closure so far was for "site investigations". We would now like a much better alternative route during the long development period. The growth of Canary Wharf has undoubtedly brought jobs and wealth to the area. Such growth requires that the changes imposed by new build on the land and facilities should also have regard to local users and residents, people who have provided the enabling physical and intellectual capital. The suspension of Cycle Route 1 is long-term temporary so its not unreasonable to ask for better alternative routes, costs would remain very low. Mr Partington signs his letter recognising the diversion via "Westferry Road is never going to be as pleasant as the riverside walkway. Such is the price of progress." Surely, its only a matter of mutual respect to their own users and tenants that CWG provide a better alternative to this stinking dangerous underground deathtrap. CWG closed the path without notice, a path which had been used and enjoyed regularly by a great many people.

Perhaps when you are a large wealthy landowner, such common courtesies towards local communities including the people that they need to pay "the price of progress" are unimportant? Raiph Withers (THWheelers)

(THWheelers)

## BIKEWORKS.....

### .....COMES TO TOWER HAMLETS

Exciting news for community cycling in Tower Hamlets as Bikeworks CIC arrives. Bikeworks, a Community Interest Company, will operate as a not-for-profit social enterprise. Its remit is that the goods and services it offers must have a social or community benefit relating to cycling. With that in mind, Bikeworks vision is "inclusive cycling for all that encourages the health and wellbeing of everybody and the community we live in". Bikeworks is also committed to offering training and employment opportunities to long term unemployed and disabled people in Tower Hamlets who require supported and flexible work environments before entering mainstream employment.

This enterprise is the work of Jim Blakemore who is currently securing premises in Mile End Park and already working with the council on a number of initiatives. Pedal Power, the cycling club for adults with learning disabilities, Tower Project, working for all with disabilities in Tower Hamlets and the Tower Hamlets Visual Impairment Group for Asian People, 'Dekah Chai' are also already involved.

Wheelers look forward to working with Jim in the future as Bikeworks develops further.

# The Back of The Ride

By Leigh Andrews

Welcome to the first edition of The Back Of The Ride brought to you by Two Cake Productions. With me today are 7 men built like whippets on bikes made of something light and very expensive. I've got no chance of keeping up blessed as I am with the body fat of a Krispy Kreme doughnut and a bike made of something heavy and cheap. Do I care? Do I buggery!

I'm not here for the glory. I'm not here for the testosterone fuelled duals. I'm here to savour the advantages the back of the ride offers. If you fear joining a ride 'cos you're worried you'll be last - take heart, this is the best bit! Here's why:

1. Broken glass / nails / horse's head in the gutter? You won't suffer. Everyone up front will have ridden over it first and sworn loudly. This highly developed human instinct will alert us poodlers at the back that it would be a really good idea to change lanes!
2. It's a great place to meet people. Wheelers in common with many cycling groups has a 'No-one Gets Left Behind' Policy. The role of back marker is often shared between speedier cyclists. They will keep your morale high and your legs spinning and you get to chat to lots of different people.
3. Everyone will know who you are. When you're at the back everyone waits for *you* before changing direction. Looking to impress someone in the crowd? Freshen up before the bend and sail into sight looking fabulous.

So if you're hesitant about joining us, don't worry. Pick one of the 'easy' paced rides from the Wheelers calendar and cheer for the rear!

### BIKE WEEK - FREE CHANNEL CROSSINGS

Sail and cycle to France for free.

To celebrate this SeaFrance partnership with The Tour de France we are offering FREE travel across the Channel during Bike Week.

Cycle over for the day or week and take advantage of the fantastic bicycle routes France has to offer. You will be entitled to FREE crossings for any foot passenger crossing with their bicycle during

**16-24 June, 2007**

To book please call 0871 663 2559 and quote FREEFTDAY for a day trip or FREETRWK for a duration up to week long. Terms & Conditions apply.

#### Just for info:

To report potholes etc: LBTH Streetline 020 77364 5004  
email: roadsafety@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Major Roads - TfL 0845 305 1234 <http://streetfaults.tfl.gov.uk>  
LCC: [www.lcc.org.uk](http://www.lcc.org.uk)

T: +44 (0) 20 7234 9310 F: +44 (0) 20 7234 9319

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

