

723 Members, 222 on the e-group

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Boris joins in!

Cyclists joining the Cycle Friday at Finsbury Park on 4 September may have been surprised to find the Mayor of London was joining them on the ride to St Pauls. He was interviewed at the start by a LBC reporter who was less than sympathetic to cyclists - and Boris. There's talk of challenging the reporter to join the ride next week!



Tell your friends!

Join Cycle Fridays at 7.30am for an 8.00am start every Friday till 2 Oct. The ride will conclude in St Paul's Churchyard an hour later. Cycle Friday rides are designed to encourage new cyclists to commute by bike into Central London.

Two Tings

Do you cycle along the canal towpath in Islington? Are you interested in trying to ensure that all towpath users are treated with due consideration and respect? If so, would you like to be involved with the "Two Tings" campaign that British Waterways are running? We've been part of it since it started several years ago.

C Joseph Young

E joseph_young77@yahoo.com

Cycling Superhighways

Routes have finally been announced for these. Islington's will be in the final tranche and it follows the Holloway Road from Archway to the Angel. Some queries from members were: will parking be banned on these routes, will motorbikes be allowed on them, where will the lines be positioned - pavement side/traffic side of the bus lanes and what about a 20mph limit.
C Talia Hussain
E talia@taliahussain.com

Connect2 in Islington

This local project is improving the walking and cycling route from Finsbury Park to Highbury Corner in conjunction with Sustrans. Unfortunately linking it to Parkland Walk through Finsbury Park station is proving something of a challenge! The ICAG-backed idea of a green bridge over Seven Sisters and Stroud Green Roads has been dismissed as too expensive. Can you think of a way of improving things for cyclists through Finsbury Park station?

E transportplanning@islington.gov.uk
P 020 7527 2257

See

<http://www.islington.gov.uk/Transport/GreenTravel/Connect2.asp> for details.



Canal festival

Once more ICAG members were talking the talk at this long running festival. People were interested in the information and the leaflets we were able to give out.



Getting ready to go on Freewheel 2007

London Skyride

Sunday 20 September
2 Feeder rides will be run from Highbury Fields. The first one starts at 10.00am and the second at 12.00am.

Register at

<http://new.britishcycling.org.uk/skyride/london>

Women's Road Rides

Women from the London Fixed Gear Single Speed forum are setting up a Sunday club for women's road rides. They'll be meeting on Sunday mornings at 8.30am at the Dalston Lane cafe for a 9am departure. The first ride went to Rainham Marshes. Other rides will follow but they hope to be doing a Saturday ride on 3rd October for the Hillingdon Race Day.

Still in very early stages, they'll be taking it in turns to pick routes and lead rides.

The original thread is here:

www.londonfgss.com/thread28441.html

Amwell Street Warning

This street is having extensive work done which will have started by the time you read this, with a scheduled finish time in mid October. Cyclists will be tempted to ride on the pavement - we hope ICAG members will not be among them.

Ten years ago...

"Council seeks closer relationship with ICAG" was the headline in Issue 18 Oct Nov 1999. We were invited to a workshop on the Cycling Section of the Interim Transport Plan for 2001/2002. History does not relate if this was repeated – although we do meet on a semi-regular basis with Council Officers about engineering issues.

Hornsey Rise

We revisited Hornsey Rise in August following works by the council to make this stretch of road safer for cyclists. We have long been concerned about northbound motor traffic in particular overtaking cyclists at speed and far too closely. The council have narrowed the road at some points, added cycle logos on the road and installed a 30mph Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) that flashes if a vehicle exceeds the speed limit.

We noted that the sign flashed for approximately 20% of the motor vehicles indicating that a significant number still exceed the speed limit, putting cyclists at risk.

One particular hotspot was outside the Health Centre where cyclists frequently had to pull out to pass parked cars.

We also observed over the top of the hill, on the Haringey side, where the road has a 20mph limit. We think Islington should follow Haringey's example. At the moment the 20mph VAS installed by Haringey Council was flashing nearly all the time. It would make greater sense for all road users if the entire length of Hornsey Road was made 20mph.

Bike Buddying

Are you (or someone you know) nervous about cycling to work? ICAG have teamed up with Islington Council to offer a bike buddying. We have trained volunteer cycle instructors who would be willing to cycle with you on your route to work, helping you gain confidence to negotiate the traffic, and offering help on route options.

If you would like to know more
C Will Pountney

E william.pountney@islington.gov.uk

Encouraging more cyclists - ICAG's video evidence

Islington Council's Sustainability Scrutiny Review Committee has been looking at how more people could be encouraged to cycle on the roads of the borough. As part of our submission we presented a short video of what it is like to ride a bike in Islington.

The video highlighted many of the issues we have raised before: speeding traffic on Hornsey Rise; potential conflict on the Horsell Road/Fieldway Crescent junction; and the Holloway Road crossing at Fieldway Crescent and Madras Place. We also looked at permeability issues in the borough - one way roads or road closures which force cyclists onto circuitous routes.

Some of these issues have begun to be addressed by the council. However engineering solutions can only work so far and we are calling on the council to take more action on education and enforcement.

You can view the video here
W icag.org.uk



Critical Mass

As we are anticipating the third London Freewheel, now London Skyride, it seems a good time to comment on a ride that predates Freewheel. Now in its 15th year, this ride has been leaving the South Bank every last Friday of the month. Chris Ashby has been leading a feeder ride from Islington Town Hall since January 2005. Initially the ride was a political statement embodied in its name "Cyclists Have a Right to Move" (CHARM). Over the years parts of London have been brought to a standstill by the sheer number of participants. Every rider has their own reasons for attending but Critical Mass is essentially an ongoing celebration of cycling.

So soon?

This edition of Islington Cyclist is earlier than usual as London Cyclist has been published to coincide with London Freewheel/Skyride.

Little Green Ride Dates

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

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

Contribute to Islington Cyclist

Please send any articles or images to:
E: 249keith@waitrose.com
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