



# ISLINGTON CYCLIST

The newsletter of the Islington Cyclists' Action Group



ICAG is the Islington group of the London Cycling Campaign

Issue 61

## Bike Workshop Success

The basic bike maintenance courses (covering general maintenance, punctures, gears & brakes) that were run this autumn were so popular we hope to repeat them next year. If anyone knows a suitable venue please contact me.

**C:** Jonathan Edwards

**T:** 020 7704 1884.

## Arsenal Cycle Parking

Volunteers are needed to talk to cyclists using bike parking facilities near the Arsenal ground on match days – and guiding them to the ones currently provided (or hidden) by Arsenal FC!

**C:** John Ackers

**T:** 020 7690 7263

**E:** john.ackers@mail.com

## Critical Mass

On the last Friday of every month, cyclists gather at 6.30pm on the South Bank under Waterloo Bridge, by the National Film Theatre. There is a feeder ride from Islington Town Hall, leaving 6.15pm prompt.

**C:** Chris Ashby

**T:** 020 7609 5093

**E:** ChrisAshby@beeb.net

## Considerate Cycling on the Canal Towpath

ICAG has been working on this with others – British Waterways, the local Police and Rupert Merryweather (LBI). The idea is to improve awareness of cyclists using the canal towpath so that all users can travel beside the canal with minimum hassle. At an evening awareness-session on October 24 there was a count of all users and leaflets offered to those who were interested. By the time you read this a similar morning one should have been completed.

## ICAG Christmas Ride

We are meeting at the Town Hall, Upper Street at 6.30pm on Wednesday December 20 to cycle to Trafalgar Square for carols, via any Christmas lights we can find, then, we'll stop for a tippie in a local pub on the way home. Festive dress is encouraged but not compulsory! For more information

**C:** Alison Dines

**T:** 020 7226 7012

**E:** alisondines@clara.co.uk

## Unison Member?

If you work for Islington Council and are a member of Unison, you can renew your membership for only £28.80, instead of £32.00 pa. You must contact the LCC office to obtain this discount.



December 2006/January 2007



Alison Dines leads ICAG members Andrew Cornwell, Chris Ashby and John Ackers through a celebratory tape.

## Opening a new facility

For many years ICAG has been campaigning to have access by bike into Highbury Place from Highbury roundabout. The Council has at last made this manoeuvre legal and it was celebrated on 1 Nov. Also present were Councillor Lucy Watt, Rob Edwards (Transport for London), Christine Mabey, (Islington Living Streets) and Martin Jones, (Highbury Fields Association).

However we think it could be improved and suggest

- “Yellow box” markings on Holloway Road
- Green gravel to highlight the cycle lane to the crossing
- Working with Living Streets, a request to redesign of the Holloway Road pedestrian crossing

## Two Wheeled Terrors, Lycra Louts, Red light Jumpers

Do names like this make you angry? Do you find yourself wondering why you, doing nothing more than riding your bicycle, are being labelled this way by the press? Cyclists seem to be fair game these days despite the fact that in an average year no-one is killed by a cyclist compared to the numbers killed by motorists. We are a part of the solution but we are seen as the problem by many who chose to ignore the real problem.

The recent TfL "Share the Road" campaign was supposed to be about targeting illegal behaviour from ALL road users. However, the press focussed on the bad behaviour of a few cyclists.

At ICAG's last meeting the issue of what we can do to counter this negative publicity was raised. We would like to uncover the real dangers on our roads. If you have witnessed any examples of dangerous driving, please email Stephen Taylor at [sltaylor001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sltaylor001@yahoo.co.uk) with the details so that we can begin to build up a record of poor driving in Islington to counter the anti-cycling rhetoric we hear so often.

### Perk for Council Workers

Islington Council have launched an assisted purchase scheme for bikes – employees only! The employee is able to buy a cheaper bike as the employer is able to recoup VAT, National Insurance and Income Tax. This is similar to the Home Computer Scheme that was axed by the Chancellor at the last Budget. The firm used is [cyclescheme.co.uk](http://cyclescheme.co.uk). With (approx) 8,000 LBI employees, this could help increase the amount of cyclists in Islington.

## Cycle Parking in Islington

If anybody is having problems in getting secure, indoor cycle parking on a Homes for Islington managed estate or property please could they let me know?

**C:** John Ackers

**T:** 020 7690 7263

**E:** [john.ackers@mail.com](mailto:john.ackers@mail.com)

## Sports Utility Vehicles

All was going peacefully in the monthly ICAG meeting back in September. Adrian had a range of snacks to digest. Others were nodding off quietly. That was until I happened to mention SUVs. The question was should we support calls for a steep parking permit charge on the largest SUVs. A nerve had been struck. Passions rose and full debate ensued as to whether a cycling group should comment on the appalling choice of vehicle made by an increasing number of road users.

Well since then, Richmond has announced a £300 parking permit charges for SUVs on the grounds that Richmond's CO2 emissions per capita are near the top of the table. The announcement brought joy and happiness to many environmentalists and the commentators in the right wing broadsheets were miffed.

The environmental arguments have been well aired. But what is the impact on cyclists? I like everything about SUVs apart from the fact that they are too wide for many of Islington's narrow streets; their height blocks our vision and their shape makes it very unlikely that we will bounce off the bonnet if we get hit. Should ICAG publicly express a view about this? Let John Ackers (details above) know or post something onto our yahoo list.

## 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 Sunday 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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