

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
August 2010

Ealing Sky Ride



Ealing councillor Bassam Mahfouz, and the Mayor of London's transport advisor, Kulveer Ranger launch the Ealing Skyride in Llamas park flanked by riders from Team Sky and members of the public.

The Mayor of London's Skyride, Ealing on 18th July was a fantastic event, and probably one of the biggest ever held in the borough. An estimated 13,000 people took to Ealing's roads and pedalled the 10 km traffic-free route in perfect weather. Closing so many roads to motor vehicles was never going to be easy, but the organisers did a great job of signposting the route and hundreds of marshals were on hand to help the day go smoothly. Bikes of all shapes and sizes were on view from penny farthings, to a Pederson, several recumbents, dozens of trailer bikes, loads of bikes with child seats, and even a quadruplet.

It was wonderful to see so many children cycling. Sky provided 9000 fluorescent bibs, a quarter of them for children, and by 2pm these had run out. Children as young as three were scooting along on bikes without pedals, while some of the older ones made two or three laps.

To launch the event, Ealing's councillor in charge of Transport and Environment, Bassam Mahfouz, and the Mayor of London's transport advisor, Kulveer Ranger posed in front of a bevy of television cameras and press photographers. Around them, Llamas Park quickly filled with cyclists and long queues formed at the food stalls. Volunteers at the LCC tent

were kept busy fixing flags to bicycles and answering queries about membership.

The ride produced a great community spirit. In West Ealing, Emily Mannino-Jeatt and her sister Chloe set up a stall selling home-baked cakes and drinks to raise money for charity. A little further on, St. Paul's Church in Ridley Avenue laid on free drinks and a toilet stop. All along the route people were smiling and the atmosphere was like a carnival.

It was an extraordinary day. Nothing more was on offer than roads free of motor vehicles, yet people came in their droves, 13,000 of them. The lesson is clear: take away the danger, and people will take to their bikes. For those who don't want to wait for the next traffic-free ride, the next best thing is to learn how to cycle in traffic. Ealing council are offering cycle training for those living and working in the borough. It costs just £5, or is free for the unwaged, and is well worth it. To book a course call Cycle Training UK on 020 7231 6005 and mention that you live in Ealing.

All in all, the verdict has to be that this was the best cycling event in Ealing ever. Thanks to the Mayor of London, Sky, British Cycling and Ealing Borough Council for making it happen.

Martin Gorst



Ealing Broadway bus-turned-bike lane



The answer to the school run.



The only way to beat a bicycle



Enterprising Emily & Chloe raise money for charity.



The LCC big top

Bike Week



The Lead Up

In the lead up to Bike Week, our information stall at Waitrose on Saturday May 22nd was an unmitigated success. Speaking to roughly 150 people in six hours, we collected approximately 100 email addresses that resulted in twelve new people turning up to join the June social ride and two new people coming along to our June meeting. The stall was made even more eye-catching by Peter's semi-recumbent tandem.

We are especially grateful to Nick Abell, Waitrose's Branch Manager, for his support and especially for the complimentary food and drink. Thanks to Alan, Angela, David E, Cici, Michael, Murray, Peter, Rachel and Tom.

As last year, we were at the Farmers' Market in West Ealing as a warm up to Bike Week. We are still the only non-traders to have been permitted to run a stall in the market, and we will be back next year to continue that tradition! Thanks to Miranda and Tim, Angela, Maja and Martin.

Our Doctor Bike at Oaklands School later that day attracted eight bike doctors but only a similar number of patients. If only the NHS had that ratio. Maybe we fixed all the bikes all last year!

The Week

On the first Saturday of Bike Week a well-oiled operation, organised by Elly and David Eales, spun into action. Cycle trailers, penny-farthings, a recumbent tri-cycle and a cycling ice-cream vendor converged on Ealing Green where we set up our annual Dr. Bike and Stall. With two gazebos and lots of helpers and mechanics, it was our biggest ever operation. By coincidence, Ealing Cycles had arranged to set up a Dr. Bike on the Green on the same day. The clash worked out well, as

we had plenty of customers, and their expert mechanics were on hand to deal with the more serious cases.

David Lomas and David Eales led a ride to the Ealing Green festival on Sunday, and we ran two evening rides during the week. Brian took a group from Osterley station along the canal to the London Apprentice in Brentford, and Martin guided a crowd to along the Thames to watch the sunset from Richmond Hill. Approaching Richmond, a few people were struck by a desperate need for a drink, and a small crowd veered off on a short-cut to the pub.

On the second Saturday we ran two events. Miranda, Tim, Andy H and Sean looked after our stall in Acton, while Nick, Mark, John and Del pedalled to Northolt Park to fly the flag at the Northolt Green Living Fair.

Ben Owen, Martin Gorst

Lessons at the Bike Hub are proving very popular with bookings now being taken to October. Due to demand we added an extra session in July and hope to add some more. There's also demand for a more advanced lesson and we're planning a session to cover cleaning, brakes and gears, stay tuned.

We've also been overwhelmed for requests to buy bikes and even hire them. As always we need some bikes to fix up and sell on! If you'd like to donate something please get in contact, likewise any spare parts are very useful. We had some saddles given to us and some tyres and these were used to make 2 donated bikes good enough to sell on, raise some money to get some more spare parts to fix up more bikes and....you get the picture.

We're always after volunteers - you don't have to teach just offer advice during the practical sessions, and at the same time it's a great time to work on your own bike. We have a stack of tools from wheel jigs down to hex keys and some things we're not even sure yet how to use.

David Eales

Rides Rides Rides...

Sunday 1st August 2010 Jubilee Valley River

A train assisted ride to Windsor and along the Jubilee river. We'll go for the 10:24 from Ealing Broadway to Maidenhead that also stops at Southall at 10:29 should you want to join us there. Buy a return from Maidenhead and bring a picnic to eat in Eton/Windsor. We'll catch the return train from Slough
Leader: Colin
Time: 10.00am prompt
Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 7th September Ruislip Lido

A trip to the Ruslip Lido go over Harrow on the Hill and the back roads to the Lido itself. Return via the canal or a more direct route depending on the weather. The food at the Lido is not as good as it used to be, and certainly the service is slow on a Sunday so bring a picnic.

Leader: David

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Next Meetings

Our next meetings are on Wednesday 4th August and Wednesday 1st September, at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL. All members welcome. Great beer, great cheesecake, great company.