

EALING CYCLING NEWS

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
Spring 2017



SPRING SOCIAL RIDES

All rides start and finish at Ealing Town Hall. Assemble from 9.45am for a 10am departure.
Return by 4pm.

Sunday 2 April

Springtime Parks and River

Our favourite scenic route down to Kew Bridge, along the river to Mortlake and into Richmond Park through the Sheen Gate. We will cross the Park to the Ham Gate and follow the river via Kingston to Hampton Court where we should see the daffodils in all their glory. We stop for lunch at the café in Bushy Park before riding on through the park and into Twickenham, returning along the river via Marble Hill Park to Brentford and back to Ealing.

Sunday 7 May

Richmond Park Circuit

Following the river on the north side through Syon Park, Twickenham and Strawberry Vale, before crossing at the Teddington Lock and entering Richmond Park through the Ham Gate. The climb to the top of the Park is rewarded by a visit to the Isabella Plantation, where the rhododendrons should be in full flower, and lunch at the Pen Ponds. We then continue around the Park to the Star & Garter Gate and return to Ealing via Kew Bridge.

Sunday 4 June

"Those magnificent men in their flying machines."

A novel ride through the northern part of the Brent River Park and the Welsh Harp Reservoir up to the RAF Museum in Hendon. Free admission to a major collection of material relating to aviation history and the contributions of the RAF in both First and Second World Wars (www.rafmuseum.org.uk). After having lunch and visiting the museum, we will return to Ealing via the parks and suburbs of Barnet & Brent.

Please email any queries to rides@ealingcycling.org.uk

 Helen Hayes

A40 McDONALDS OUTCOME AND HAVEN GREEN

In June last year we reported that the public inquiry into the proposed McDonalds drive-thru restaurant on the A40 at Acton might have to be re-opened. Happily however on 4 January McDonalds withdrew their appeal, as they have obtained planning permission for an alternative layout suggested by ECC. This will not involve cars having to cut across the mayor's East-West Cycle Superhighway when this is built.

ECC have notified the Planning Inspectorate that because the inquiry will not now be re-opened, we will not be pursuing a claim for costs against McDonalds. Common sense has prevailed, and we wish McDonalds well with their new venture.

Common sense has unfortunately not so far prevailed at Haven Green, where the Friends of Haven Green and others are still asking the council to remove the Cycle Hub, part of which falls on common land. A public inquiry will be held on 15 March into the council's applications to regularise the situation; cycle parking has been the main use of the relevant traffic island for at least 60 years.

The council's latest application has received overwhelming support from individual members of the public, as well as from ECC who will be one of the main parties at the inquiry. More news will follow in the next edition of Ealing Cycling News.

 Peter Mynors

STOP THE KILLING

Six of us rode from Ealing Town Hall on 11 February to join the hundreds of protestors marching in memory of those who were killed on the roads the previous week. Stop Killing Cyclists organised a "die-in", a minute of silence lying in the roadway, to demand the government increase spending on cycling infrastructure.

 Nick Moffitt



Want to see what's so great about cycling in the Netherlands?
Looking for a cycle touring journey on flat terrain?
Willing to raise money for a good cause?

Well you're in luck, because...

THE EALES MEMORIAL AMSTERDAM RIDE IS BACK FOR 2017 AND YOU'RE INVITED!

The David Eales Memorial Amsterdam Ride is a 4 day tour through France, Belgium and the Netherlands, with an optional 1-2 day London to Dover segment. We are planning to hold the next one in September 2017, and invite you to join us. It's ideal for those of us who enjoy the ECC Social Rides, but aren't really up for the RideLondon 100!



In September of 2016, six of us cycled from London to Amsterdam in memory of the recently departed David Eales. Four of us rode on heavy upright bikes, three of which were genuine Dutch models. We raised funds for the London Cycling Campaign (the charity of which ECC is a local branch) as well as SJS Awareness, a charity that funds research into the disease that took David from us.



The route we took last year goes through Dunkirk, Bruges, Antwerp and Rotterdam, with midday stops in places like Veurne, Ghent, and Roosendaal for lunch. We slept in inexpensive hostels (some of which were fabulous!), and carried all our baggage on our panniers. We averaged around 60 miles per day on level ground, with an average speed of about 9mph. Our big challenge was time in the saddle.



We found our group of six to be a good size for the ride, and encourage 2017 participants to form up into teams of 4-8 riders. We found it helped to have a good mix of talents and personalities to keep things moving smoothly.

To learn more about the ride, visit the Web site below and consider subscribing to one of the e-mail mailing lists. We will hold planning meetings in the Spring and Summer to organise and to familiarise people with the route. We'll help you get your bike and body ready for the trip, and give advice on how to make use of the Just-Giving system to support our charities.

We look forward to riding with you!



All are welcome to our meetings at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of every month. The next dates are:

5th April and 3rd May.
Our regular venue, Café Grove, serves food and drink:

65 The Grove, W5 5LL

@EalingCyclists
info@ealingcycling.org.uk
www.ealingcycling.org.uk
Registered Charity #1115789

ICED ON THE UXBRIDGE ROAD

On January 8th it was sub-zero temperature with frost on the roads when I set out to work. As I joined the Uxbridge road at the Hanwell Clock, I hit a patch of ice and fell, landing on my arm. It was not until 4 days later when the arm was swollen I went to Ealing Hospital casualty and discovered I had chipped my elbow.

I had noticed there was a water leak by the Clock and it had flowed across the pavement and created a dangerous ice patch in the bus lane on the Uxbridge Road. I reported the incident to Thames Water and surprisingly received a follow up email next day saying they had not seen any leak.

A week later after being informed my arm was fine (chips are not major), on another sub-zero day I repeated my commute. Arriving at the junction I decided to walk to avoid another fall. While I was there 2 other cyclists fell. I realised that this was a disaster waiting to happen and decided to get it fixed.

After trying fruitlessly to contact the council, I called Ealing Cycling campaign. Martin Gorst promptly responded with directions about how to report the Incident and forwarded my email to Cllr. Bassam Mahfouz who followed up with the Council. Within a week they had raised the issue with Thames Water and they had repaired the "non-existent" Leak.

What did I learn from this? Negatives: Lost 1½ days work and experienced the frustration of faceless bureaucracy. Positives: I experienced people who care. Martin, Bassam and Ealing Casualty were all fantastic and I felt I had been heard.

If you speak out, you can change things.

Stephen Fidler

