

# Southwark Cyclists

# NEWSLETTER

Southwark



Cyclists

December 2006 / January 2007

## Barry's Blog...

So, here it is. Our new newsletter. A quiet relaunch. What do you think? Want to contribute? Just send in your stuff.

The next big thing around here? Even closer working between Southwark Cyclists and Southwark Living Streets with a clear manifesto to bring about a transport revolution in Southwark. We dream about parts Holland, Denmark, Scandinavia, Germany where cars take third place to pedestrians and cyclists. The timing feels right....time to recivilise our borough. Local political leaders claim they want do something about global warming, hostile cityscapes, giving people the chance to enjoy their streets. Let's test those words and get delivery.

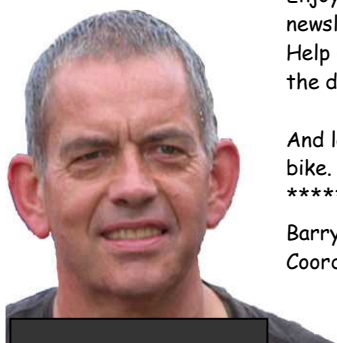
Planners are talking about the huge Elephant and Castle regeneration project, right here in the heart of Southwark as one of the world's first major post-car developments. That (and not the 7,000 flats in the pipe line with planning permission on the Greenwich riverside with one car parking space each) must surely be the way forward.

There's fertile ground here then for the realisation of these dreams

Enjoy the newsletter. Help us with the dream.

And love that bike. \*\*\*\*\*

Barry Mason - Coordinator



## Why Cycle in a Group?

Most of us have a certain sense of trepidation when we first join a group. We worries about not knowing anyone, making small talk with total strangers, and generally feeling left out in a group of people who already know one another.

That's where cycling is different – it's an activity people can do "alone together." Everyone shows up on their bike, has a quick chat and introduction, and then hits the road. Cycling along, riders can be lost in their own thoughts, admire the view, or, if the pace is leisurely and the road permits -chat to fellow travellers. By the end of the ride (usually a pub), the group has shared experiences – flat tyres, bumps on the road, interesting cycle paths – and no one is a "newcomer" any more.

Cyclists come from all walks of life. Their cycles range from ancient 'beater' bikes to the latest, lightest road racers. Everyone's pace is different, too. Some prefer to lead the pack, while others linger over the scenery and enjoy the weather. But no matter what the speed, there is always someone bringing up the rear to make sure that no one is left behind.

Cycling in a group is great for beginners, since a good way to learn safe routes, bike parking, and share tips about the best gear and quick repairs. For everyone, it's a great way to exercise and increase stamina – nothing encourages us to go a bit farther and a bit faster than a very supportive (and slightly competitive) group, combined with a beckoning beer and a friendly chat at the end of the ride.



"Everyone got a spare inner tube?"

Joining a Southwark Cyclist tour gives riders have the opportunity to visit areas of London and England they never thought existed. "Afterworkers" (Thursday nights at 18:30 on the south bank of London Bridge) provide short 12-15 mile tours of some of London's most unusual attractions: beautiful Georgian squares, industrial sites with great river views, and Victorian canals that allow you to ride from across London, are just some of the choices. (Continued Overleaf...)

WIN

your Ceildh ticket!

This is the first of the new-look newsletter and we're seeking a new name, so please get your creative heads on.

We're looking for something snappy that reflects Southwark Cyclists.

### **Why Cycle in a Group?** *Continued*

On week-ends, there are half- and full-day rides (20-50 miles) farther afield, to points of interest such as Waltham Abbey and Folkestone. For the more adventuresome, there are occasional weekend breaks.

Best yet, all of this is free.

### **Been There, Done That**

In October **Afterworkers** did the Southwark Border Patrol, covering Southwark's borders with neighbouring boroughs, and the ever famous ride to the Woolwich Ferry and back.

There were mixed reviews of the big **Cycle Show 2006** at Excel Exhibition Centre. Huge crowds gawked at a variety of stalls selling every kind of product you can imagine. Some reviewers thought it was 'soulless' while others were fascinated by the amount of money some people can spend on a titanium-racing bike (over £6,000 if you are lusting after one).

Southwark Cyclists attended **Fresher's Fairs** at four local colleges to encourage the incoming class to cycle. 60 students joined Southwark Cyclists e-mail group. We'll look forward to seeing them on the rides (and at the Ceillidh!)

The **Annual General Meeting** was really well attended. Southwark Cyclists is in good financial shape, with enough surplus funds to see us through a few more projects. The Jeremy Deller designed T-Shirt sales (500 sold at the Tate Modern to date) netted a profit of £200 and 80 T-shirts. New Management Committee elections were held, and many of the same faces are still in place: Barry Mason, Coordinator; Colin Hartridge-Price, Secretary; Hugh Bolton, Treasurer; Ten, Rides Coordinator; Kit Reynolds, Webmaster. New faces are Ray Walsh in Planning, Gwen Bondi and Gary Jones, joint newsletter editors, Andrew Rogers as Sustrans Liaison, and Eleanor Purser in a new role, Press Officer. The post of Campaigns remains vacant.

Go [www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk)

**And join the egroup – it's easy**

### **TfL Cycle Guides**

We want to feed-back your views to TfL. Send your responses to these questions by 15<sup>th</sup> Dec to [info@southwarkcyclists.org.uk](mailto:info@southwarkcyclists.org.uk). Thanks...

### **Things to Do – Rides and more...**

#### **Sat 2nd Dec – Very Special "Locks, Docks, and One Steaming Ferry"**

Charity ride for the Food Chain, which provides nutrition services and food to adults and children with HIV related illnesses.



Voluntary donation of at least £10 (£5 concessions).  
Meet: 9:00 a.m. at Southwark Needle; 10 a.m. Cutty Sark Gardens.

#### **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec - Gravesend to Maidstone**

Greenwich Cyclists. Check website for details.

#### **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Bishops Stortford – Saffron Walden**

Meet 8.30am Liverpool Street Station concourse.

#### **Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: Ally Pally Seasonal Fair**

Greenwich Cyclists. Check website for details.

#### **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec: Southwark Cyclists Monthly Meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month**

7pm Blackfriars Settlement, Rushworth Street SE1. Pub afterwards. Get involved – all welcome.

#### **Sat 16th Dec: Southwark Cyclists Ceillidh**

Join the Southwark Cyclist in first Annual Ceillidh! Fast fiddle music from the Muckers, designed to make dancing irresistible. Free buffet. Internal bike parking. Pay Bar. Tickets £17.50 on sale now! On-line ticket sales on the web site or call Barry on 07905 889 005 – before they sell out  
8:00 p.m. to midnight: Wilson Hall, Camberwell College of Art and Design, Wilson Road, SE5 8LU.

#### **Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec: Canals, Park & a Lake**

Greenwich Cyclists ride. Check website for details.

#### **Mon 25th Dec: "25/12 Ride"**

Join the Southwark Cyclist 5<sup>th</sup> Annual ride! A slow sociable meander around Central London, with a late lunch in a good value Edgware Road Café that caters for Vegans too! Optional extension and pub-crawl afterward! Free.  
Meet: 11:00 a.m. Southwark Needle.

#### **Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Dec: Critical Mass – Not a Southwark Cyclist's Ride**

6.30pm last Friday of every month on the South Bank under Waterloo Bridge. It's a bit political, but so is riding a bike! Try it.

#### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January: Monthly meeting** as above.

Correct as we went to press, but always check rides & look for others in the "Social Rides & Events" section of [www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk)

1. what good (in your view) cycle routes aren't shown on the maps, and why they're good.
2. look at the yellow routes marked and comment if any of them are not the quieter roads recommended by cyclists they're supposed to be.
3. look at the blue London Cycle Network routes and improve them where possible
4. any other comments about the maps or tons of text etc etc.