

The Southwark Cyclist

January and February 2006

Southwark



12 things to do in 2006, or do you have better ones?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun. 5th February: ride east along the Thames. Meet 9.00am at Southwark Needle. Barry on 07905 889 005 for further info or check out the website: southwarkcyclists.org.uk

Fast fortnightly rides in Kent with Scot: meet at Charing Cross station on Saturdays/Sundays, +/- 50 miles. Watch website for further details or call Barry.

Wed. 8th February: Monthly meeting at 7 – 8.30pm at Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushmore Street, SE1 0RB. Park bikes indoors. Pub afterwards at The Crown, 108 Blackfriars Road.

Sat. 11th February: Love Your Bike day at Polworth Hill. Ride leaving Southwark Needle at 9:00 a.m. Day of FREE, cycling related activities, Dr. Bike, films, free lunch, yoga, cycle training: www.love-yr-bike.co.uk

Thu. 23rd February: Afterworker ride. Meet 6.30pm Southwark Needle for a very slow ride to 56A Info Shop, 56 Crampton Street, SE17 3AE for a South London Radical History Group evening.

Sat. 4th March: Bike Day at Decathlon, Surrey Quays: Rides, Dr Bike, training, lock-busting demonstrations and lots of advice about what locks to use and what locks are useless. Further details on website, or call Barry

Wed. 8th March: Monthly meeting – see above.

17th – 25th June: Bike Week – lots of events. Keep the week free!

Bike needs repairing when you're on your way somewhere, and you're nowhere near a bike shop and don't have any tools? Call a mobile repair service, Re-rolling (07715 711150) which operates Mon-Fri in the Map 10 area for quick repairs.

12 things to do this year:

1. Ride the Southwark border.
2. Join the LCC.
3. Do bike maintenance classes.
4. Go on a critical mass ride on the last Friday of every month.
5. Go on a Locks, Docks... ride.
6. Join the World Naked Bike Ride on 10th June.
7. Summer Solstice Ride at 2.00am on 21st June, obviously!
8. Dunwich Dynamo, 8th/9th July – 200 kms. from London to Dunwich on the Suffolk coast.
9. Wild Wales Challenge in Bala – about 85 miles of easy hills.
10. Do an After-worker ride.
11. Attend the Annual Meeting in October.
12. Christmas Day ride around London.

And something to plan for in 2007: The Tour d'Afrique, an annual 12,000 kms. Bike race/expedition from Cairo to Cape Town. The journey, starting in January, takes about 120 days, of which 95 are cycling days, and is billed as the most scenic, most gruelling race on earth!

Recommended reading:

The Noblest Invention

by Eds. of *Bicycling Magazine* (Author).

From the time we first wobble away from Mum or Dad on two wheels, we're hooked. The mobility, the freedom that the bicycle brings is our first taste of independence. For many, that feeling persists, and bicycling becomes a lifelong love. It represents the promise of the open road, the enthralling sense of speed, the quiet places, the challenging trails -- all in the pleasant company of family, chums, or just yourself. *The Noblest Invention* celebrates this unique interaction between humans and machine.



Raleigh Girl. This picture was used on the front of the Raleigh 1922 catalogue. The image was intended to convey the suitability of cycling for the "modern" woman.

Boring but necessary stuff!

IMMOBILISE BICYCLE CRIME – to protect your bike, register it with www.immobilise.com

Disagreements with buses?

Tel: 0200 7918 4300. Email: customerservices@tfl-buses.co.uk. Give them as much info as you can such as time, date, route no., registration no.

Potholes in the borough? Email: environment@southwark.gov.uk

Faults in TfL roads?

Tel. 0845 305 1234.
<http://streetfaults.tfl.gov.uk/newfaults.html>

BOROUGH NEWS ... BOROUGH NEWS ... BOROUGH NEWS ...

CYCLE SATURATION (1) at St. John's School in Rotherhithe. New lock-up cage being built for the bikes which will be fitted in the week beginning 6th February. Launch date to be agreed, at which there will be a Dr. Bike. More later. Rotherhithe Schools Bike Club will be next.

CYCLE SATURATION (2) starts soon at two junior schools in Dulwich, with a budget of £30,000, after they asked us to help create a project for them

BIKE DAY AT DECATHLON on Saturday, 4th March. Southwark Cyclists are working with Southwark Council and the Police on anti-bike theft initiatives. A leaflet will be available giving advice on the need to lock up properly. Southwark Crime Prevention have offered Southwark Cyclists £2,000 to create this day on 4th March at Decathlon, Southwark's largest bike retailer. Register your bike with www.immobilise.com and put one of their numbered stickers on your bike, making it easier for the police to trace the owner. And spend as much as you can on good quality locks.

SURREY DOCKS WATERSPORTS CENTRE, Greenland Dock. We are now also helping the Watersports Centre, where local children on Community Service Orders are learning cycling skills and how to fix and re-cycle bikes over a 12 week course. The project will also help build nest rafts and reed beds for Greenland and South Docks.

EVENING BIKE MAINTENANCE CLASSES at On Your Bike, in Tooley Street. Call 07905 889 005 or email: info@southwarkcyclists.org.uk to get your name on the list for the next classes

SOUTHWARK CYCLISTS IS FOR EVERYONE WHO LIKES WHAT WE DO, NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE. CHECK OUT WWW.LCC.ORG.UK FOR LINKS TO BOROUGH GROUPS ALL OVER LONDON.

Shop for a new bike and let your employer pick up the bill.

Your post-festive financial situation might have left you wondering how you are going to be able to afford to buy anything again without a pay rise. However, even if a fatter pay packet is a just a pipe dream, you might be able to persuade your employer to sign up to schemes that will save you a tidy sum on bikes.

Flexible benefits packages - where employees can 'pick and mix' which benefits they want up to a certain value - are gaining in popularity and the range of options is expanding beyond traditional perks such as health insurance. Employee benefits consultancy Entegria, which designs packages for employers, has just started offering perks (through Capital Plans Ltd) - that can save employees hundreds of pounds a year.

Employers save on national insurance too, so it's a win-win situation for everyone - except Gordon Brown.

Your employer in effect loans you a bike and equipment (including helmets, locks and so on) over a period of 12 to 18 months. Your repayments come from your gross salary.

If you were to choose a bike costing £500, your employer could reclaim the VAT and buy it for £425. Assuming you are a basic-rate tax payer this would reduce your salary by £23.76 a month.

The rules mean an employee must use the bike regularly for commuting to work.

As seen in The Observer, 15 January 2006

Please email suerichards29@gmail.com if you'd like to put anything interesting, sad, funny (or maybe even boring) in the next newsletter, deadline mid-March,

Southwark Cyclists' Management Committee: Borough Co-ordinator – Barry Mason; Secretary – Colin Hartridge-Price; Treasurer – Hugh Bolton; Campaigns Group Leader – Eleanor Purser; Rides Co-ordinator – Ten; Webmaster – Kit Reynolds; Press Officer – Adam Maddison; Sustrans Liaison Officer – Geraldine Mason, and Newsletter Editor – Sue Richards