



Lewisham Rider



Newsletter for Lewisham Cyclists
www.lewishamcyclists.co.uk

Spring 2017

Deptford's Year of Cycling Underway!

As you may know, we will be working with Deptford Folk this year to deliver a programme of events and activities to promote and encourage cycling in and around the area.

The first Quietway runs right through the heart of the borough and has seen, according to counts carried out in the northern half, a huge increase in cycling on it. Numbers of riders at peak times have doubled on some parts. And one of the first SuperHighways that will roll out under the new Mayor's administration will also go straight through Deptford along Evelyn St and Creek Rd, connecting Greenwich to London Bridge. So definitely the right time to team up with local groups in Deptford and work towards a common aim, promoting active travel.

We began the first session of our three session basic maintenance course in mid February and it filled up immediately, so another is planned for late March. We also opened up a new drop in maintenance project in the area, which will run on two Sundays every month.

In addition we are running monthly Dr Bikes outside Deptford Lounge.

We are planning a park based event later in the Spring to properly launch the whole year of events. A bicycle powered showing of a film as part of the New Cross Film Festival is planned for April 28th.

In addition we are planning a programme of regular rides for all ages and abilities starting and finishing in Deptford.

If you think you would like to help in any of this do get in touch with us or Deptford Folk.

Upcoming Rides and Events

There are rides planned for every week this coming Spring. Final details weren't confirmed in time for this newsletter but do check the website or our Facebook group or LCC's website regularly as it will all be listed there. We're off to Kent and the Surrey Hills, Whitstable as well as shorter local rides for all abilities. in the next few weeks.

And our usual fortnightly Tuesday Totter leaves every other Tuesday evening from Ladywell at 6.30pm for an easy relaxed 10 miles or so in the local area ending at a local pub.

As our leader article states, there are lots of events planned in the Deptford area, as well as our well established cycle maintenance drop ins at Grove Park community Centre on the last Sunday of the month and in Forest Hill at the Young Lewisham Project in Kilmorie Rd on second Thursdays at 6.30pm. Full details of all this, on our website:

<http://lewishamcyclists.co.uk/rides-and-events/calendar-of-events/>



Our Dr Bikes in Deptford Lounge

Twitter @lewicyclists
Email: lewishamcyclists@gmail.com
Telephone: 07826559603

Mini Holland or Healthy Streets

At our recent AGM, Paul Gasson came down from deepest Walthamstow and treated us to an excellent presentation on how the Mini Holland funding as secured and used in that borough.

Whatever your individual opinion of the “Mini Holland” idea, Paul’s presentation was clear and very informative and we thank him enormously for coming down at his own expense to deliver it.



Everyone at the meeting could immediately think of areas in Lewisham that would benefit from this approach. However, it was apparent that filtered permeability was key to the success of the initiative in the chosen areas and this cannot be achieved without strategic roads being closed to through traffic. It cannot be denied that this can be problematic, in terms of the opposition it can generate as well as the fact that more major roads nearby do have to take up some of the displaced through traffic.



However, the benefits for those smaller residential roads are enormous and they really do become “healthy streets” for all who use them. Paul’s presentation made it clear that it’s far more than just cycling that benefits. The sight of children playing in their streets again is a beautiful one and older folk and those who are less mobile being able to enjoy their local area without the stress and fear negotiating fast moving traffic.

Definitely much to inform future meetings as we go through 2017

Ride of the Season

As usual, Lewisham cyclists carried on riding every week throughout the winter. I believe we only had to cancel one or two rides and that was due to ice. Hard to pick just one, but train assisted ride out from Harpenden in the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire lanes was a pleasure. On the way, we



passed Shaws Corner, home once of George Bernard himself. Who said we weren’t a cultured bunch?

One of our most well attended local rides saw over twenty riders up to Hampstead Heath via Hyde Park, Regents Park, bits of canal path and Primrose Hill and back. Over 30 miles of London riding. I would never have attempted this route on one of our rides listed as For Families a few years back. But the new superhighways and cycle routes have made it possible to take less experienced people riding right through London now, keeping them safe and giving them a great experience as well.



Lewisham Cyclists on Primrose Hill