

# EALING CYCLING NEWS

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall  
Autumn 2018

## 36 YEARS OF ECC HISTORY

### THE FIRST GENERATION

### ECC'S NEWSWORTHY PAST

Ealing Cycling Campaign was formed at a public meeting held in the basement of Windsor Road Methodist Church in 1982. We had support from Ealing Friends of the Earth and the Cyclists' Touring Club, and we worked with them when lobbying Ealing Council for cycling facilities.

This resulted in the completion of a back street north-south route from Ealing Broadway to Hanger Lane with shared use of the pedestrian subways under the Gyratory system. The second route from Ealing Common to West Ealing via Mattock Lane took much longer to implement and was eventually opened in June 1989.

Our campaigning took the form of lobbying councillors prior to meetings of the highways committee, sending letters to the local papers and rallying our members to confront local politicians on the steps of the Town Hall for the LCC's annual protest Round London Bike Ride.

 Anthony Agius,  
ECC Borough Coordinator 1982-1989

Looking back through the years of newspaper cuttings, it's easy to get a sense of déjà vu – especially when it comes to our campaign to get decent cycle facilities on the Uxbridge Road. Back in 1999 we hit local headlines when we pointed out that its cycle lanes were dangerous, in part because they were being blocked by parked cars.

Things came to a head when the council installed parking bays on the cycle lane in Southall. We staged a protest, and made more headlines with a photo of one of our members 'cycling' over a car parked in one of the new bays. That year, the council commissioned a report to look into the road's casualty rate. It found that seven cyclists were injured every mile on the Uxbridge Road, compared to a London average of one cyclist every

two miles. To try to make the road safer, it painted green strips alongside the junctions and added cycle symbols in the cycle lanes "so motorists are in no doubt about their use". The road now has slightly fewer casualties – just under five cyclists are injured every mile – but it's not the safe, unobstructed route it should be. Almost 20 years on, we hope the latest report will inspire the council to install the segregated cycle lanes, and safe crossings needed to finally make the Uxbridge Road attractive for everyone in Ealing to use.



## TAKING EALING CYCLING CAMPAIGN TO THE 21ST CENTURY

LCC is 40 years old this year. ECC, at least in its current incarnation, is only 23 years old. The original group folded in 1989, and the LCC encouraged people (including our current Borough Coordinator, Martin Gorst) to start a new group in April 1995. I turned up to my first ECC meeting that August, when about half a dozen of us met in a living room in Northfields. I used to type up the minutes and hand deliver them to the LCC: no e-mail!

We got a second wind at a strikingly successful Bike Week in the early 2000s during which a number of new active members turned up, including the late David Eales. We held increasingly successful Dr Bike sessions on Ealing Green, looking over more than

80 bikes and dispensing scores of maps and leaflets.

David Eales took on our monthly e-mail newsletter and increased its readership dramatically. We began to hold Dr Bikes and leaflet stalls at school fêtes, teach-ins at Scout groups, and made our social rides a regular monthly event. Our campaigning efforts also benefited, gaining regular contact with the council and regularly providing responses to planning notices.

Recently we have succeeded in changing the access to the McDonalds branch by the A40 and saving the Bike Hub cycle parking on Haven Green, both of which involved our Peter Mynors attending public enquiries. We joined the protest over the fatalities

on the Uxbridge Road and are currently involved in the council's resulting cycle safety efforts. Our guidance on the segregation of the Steyne Road roundabout was accepted, and we are now regularly approached to give our input on cycling issues for major developments such as the Southall Waterside project.

It's been quite a ride over the last twenty years. Cycling is becoming a mainstream way of getting around London. Cargo bikes now make deliveries in the capital and parents cycling with kids on board are becoming commonplace. Here's to the next twenty years.

 David Lomas,  
ECC Borough Coordinator 1990s/2000s

# AUTUMN RIDES SCHEDULE

All rides start from Ealing Town Hall. Meet at 9.45am for a 10am departure. Bring locks, and as the evenings start to draw in, don't forget lights.

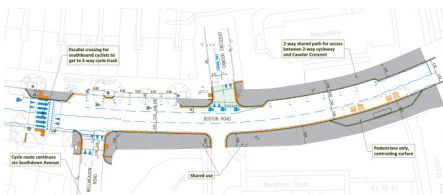
7 October

## South Bank Koestler Trust Exhibition

Our popular annual ride to the Southbank Centre to see the Koestler Trust Exhibition which showcases stunning art produced in the UK's prisons, secure hospitals, and detention centres.

We will spend a couple of hours at the Southbank, giving us easily enough time to have lunch and visit this truly uplifting, emotive and thought-provoking exhibition. We will be given a guided tour led by an ex-prisoner.

We should return to Ealing by 4.30pm. Bring lights and a good quality lock. Treat yourself to lunch at the foodie paradise of the food market on the South Bank



4 November

## Ealing Garden Suburbs

A local ride exploring the social and architectural history of Bedford Park and Brentham Garden Suburb. Sir John Betjeman described Bedford Park as "the most significant suburb built in the last century, probably in the western world". We then move on to visit Brentham Garden Suburb, notable as the first garden suburb founded on co-partnership principles, influenced by William Morris and the Arts & Crafts Movement.

This will be a gentle ride, with plenty of stops to look at the buildings and hear about their history. It will be a "long half day" with a mid-morning refreshment break and returning to Ealing by around 2.30pm.

2 December

## Fulham Palace and Bishop's Park

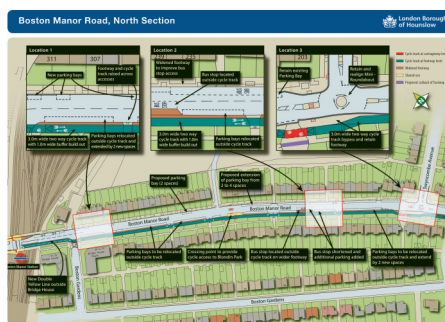
A short ride for the shorter days of the year. We will ride down to Chiswick Bridge, cross the river to Mortlake and ride on through Barnes. We will join the riverside path as far as Putney, and then cross back over the river to reach our destination: the historic Fulham Palace, once the home of the Bishop of London, and now offering a small museum and an elegant café. We will return home via the neighbouring Bishop's Park, which offers a relaxing green space on the riverside, and on through the quiet roads of Fulham, back to Ealing via Ravenscourt Park and Acton.

We should return to Ealing by 2.30-3pm.

 Helen Hayes

## THE NEW BOSTON MANOR CYCLEWAY

The crossing outside Boston Manor station is being dug up this September. Transport for London are installing a combination pedestrian/cycle (or "toucan") crossing. This will help people cycle from the Ealing side of Boston Road to the new bi-directional cycle track Hounslow recently installed.



In 2014, Hounslow Council consulted the public on plans to improve cycle facilities on the Boston Manor Road. Hounslow decided to install a 3m wide bi-directional off-road cycle track on the western side of the street. The cycleway runs from the station, past Boston Manor itself, all the way to the entrance to Glaxo Smith Kline.

Our sister group, The Hounslow Cycling Campaign, worked with councillors and officers to ensure that the cycleway was built with a high-quality

surface, and that junction crossings were designed with cycling safety as a priority. The result is popular with cyclists of all ages and abilities, and the only common complaint is that it ends quite suddenly at the M4 flyover on one end and the Ealing borough boundary on the other!

Ealing Council have met with area residents and shown plans proposing a shared pavement area to connect the Hounslow route to Boston Road and Cawdor Crescent. Many members of ECC expressed disappointment at this scheme's lack of ambition to Ealing Council Leader Julian Bell when he attended our August meeting, and he responded with sympathy and agreement.

The Boston Road connects Hanwell to Brentford, potentially linking the West Ealing Liveable Neighbourhood scheme with CS9. The alignment is listed as a "high potential" route in the Mayor of London's Strategic Cycling Analysis. A high-quality scheme to match and extend Hounslow's could create a large number of new cycling journeys in West London.

Take a ride on the new route on the Hounslow side of things, and see what we hope to achieve on our side of the tracks.

 Nick Moffitt

## EALING CYCLING CAMPAIGN



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

3rd October and 7th November.

Our new venue is the Questors Theatre opposite Walpole Park:  
12 Mattock Lane, W5 5BQ



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