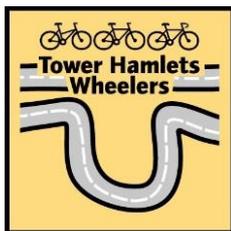


EAST LONDON CYCLIST



LOCAL CYCLING NEWS & UPDATES December 2018

www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk

@thwheelers 

Tower Hamlets Wheelers 

A New Member Writes:

Ride a bicycle on the streets of London and you're one of thousands doing so daily, an accepted member of the city's ever on the move, often in competition, sometimes dysfunctional family of commuters.

Ride a bicycle on the streets of South African cities and, particularly if you aren't dressed as if you're en route to the Tour de France, you're weird.

Car broken down? Part of a film shoot? In denial? Or, as someone sitting at a table at a Johannesburg pavement café spluttered in shock as I rode past, "Are we in Europe?"



My partner and I recently moved to Bethnal Green from Cape Town, via Johannesburg. We owned a car each in Joburg, where we were weekend warriors on our bikes and mixed it with roaring 10-ton trucks and obese SUVs

that would track us in seeming curiosity, much like tourists in the Kruger National Park might do having happened on a couple of zebra.

We became car-free in Cape Town when we discovered bike lanes (the painted variety). I was once left-hooked while riding in such a lane, which sent the car's wing mirror skidding down the tarmac. The car stopped, the driver alighted — and set off after his mirror without the slightest thought for the cyclist he might have killed.

Another time a woman and two small children in an SUV stopped next to me at a traffic light. She rolled down her window to tell me, "You shouldn't be on the road; it's not safe." Turns out we were going to the same café. She parked with one set of wheels obstructing a driveway, the other set on a red line, left her kids in the vehicle, and went inside. Not safe, indeed.

I'm sure Londoners have stories like these, and far better, to relate. But they should know, and appreciate, that in their world bicycles belong. We are very happy to be part of that world.

Telford Vice

Upcoming Events

Wheelers' Christmas Party

Saturday, 8 December – 7pm at Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road E14 7HA

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, 12 December – 7:30pm at The Cabin, St Margaret's House, Old Ford Road E2 9PL

Our monthly meeting (every second Wednesday of the month) to discuss various projects within the borough. From workshops, to consultations to upcoming rides - varied agenda and all very welcome.

Bicycle Maintenance Workshop

Saturday, 15 December – 11am at Limehouse Town Hall, 646 Commercial Road E14 7HA

Hands-on workshop (every third Saturday of the month) with Dr Bike available if you need any help. Tea, cake and chat available!

More info at:
wheelers.org.uk/diary

Where is my Bike?



PREVENTION:

In my 30 years as a London cyclist I have lost three lovely bikes (I will spare you the details).

Thefts in London have never really declined but there are options for getting your bike back:

Before your bike is stolen:

1. Take photos of your bike **BEFORE** it is stolen.
2. Make a note of the bike serial number **BEFORE** it is stolen
3. Hide (glue) something tiny in the frame, or use a soldering iron to put a dot in an inconspicuous place.
4. Take advantage of your local **POLICE frame stamping sessions** (thieves will always file them off but this is a good sign the bike has been stolen when recovered).
5. Neighbourhood watch will sell you 'SmartWater' for £10.50. Go to: www.smartwater.com/cycle-xmas

(It's invisible, and is hated by thieves...)

ONLINE RECOVERY:

The good news is, online bike recovery is going strong; have a look at the sites below to report or possibly recover your stolen pride and joy.

- a) <https://stolen-bikes.co.uk/>
- b) https://twitter.com/StolenBikes_UK
- c) <https://en-gb.facebook.com/stolenbikesuk/>
- d) <https://checkthatbike.co.uk/>
- e) <http://www.vizwiz.com/2017/09/stolen-bikes.html>

LONDON STOLEN BIKE HOTSPOTS MAP:

<https://www.stolenride.co.uk/london-stolen-bike-map/>

ALTERNATIVES:

Considering a DIY search? Be careful ...

1. Don't go anywhere angry!
2. Inform the Police before doing anything
3. In all cases I would strongly advise anyone looking to be with another person
4. Covertly take photographic evidence if possible before approaching anyone
5. Inform the Police before doing anything

Run to a certain bike shop in Hackney...

I won't say where, but a Brompton owner I met sprinted to this particular place when his bike disappeared in the West End.

As he opened the door, he saw his bike having the stickers removed before his very eyes.

Being a righteous Aussie in a bad mood he politely drew some attention to the situation.

I am glad to say after a threat to call the Police his bike was handed back without any fuss.

Or...

A trip to the Shoreditch end of Brick Lane at 5am has uncovered a few gems in the past. Take some camera-wielding friends and be polite.

P. Miller