

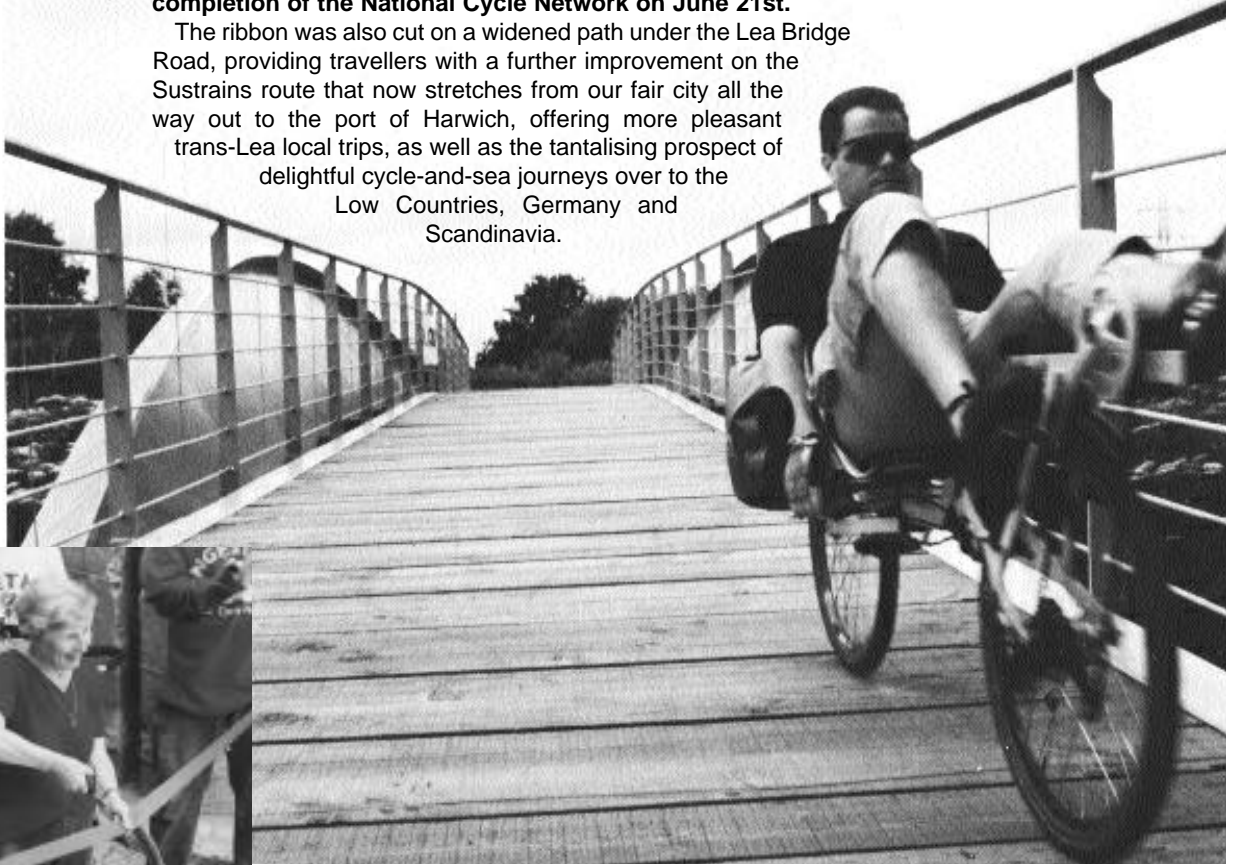
# Bridge over the River Lea (or Lee)

Photograph: Douglas Carnall

## Spectacular new foot-and-cycle link between London and old Essex finally cleared for traffic

Nearly two years after it was winched into place over London's second river at the north end of Hackney Marshes, 'Friends Bridge' was officially opened to coincide with the completion of the National Cycle Network on June 21st.

The ribbon was also cut on a widened path under the Lea Bridge Road, providing travellers with a further improvement on the Sustrains route that now stretches from our fair city all the way out to the port of Harwich, offering more pleasant trans-Lea local trips, as well as the tantalising prospect of delightful cycle-and-sea journeys over to the Low Countries, Germany and Scandinavia.



Hackney's Deputy Mayor snips the silk

## Power to the people!

Dozens more people are now able to take control of their own travel, thanks to the Cycle Active project, promoted by Hackney LCC and funded by the Health Education Authority and the East London Health Action Zone.

The project has enjoyed a successful summer season providing 135 hours of training in and around Victoria Park, Shoreditch Park and Millfields during May, June and July.

Some of the students who were already able to balance a bike are now out riding confidently on the streets; others who turned up never having discovered how to balance a two-wheeler are getting to the stage where they are ready to start sharing road space with other traffic.

Training starts again in September for a short

## Hackney house...and garage?

Should you have to own a motorised vehicle to have the right to rent a garage from Hackney Council?

Queensbridge residents Lorna Thunder and David Moreno don't think so. Having recently moved into a *bijou* little residence on Samuel Close, E8, the couple applied to take over the tenancy of the nearby garage which the former resident had used to store her vehicle.

To their surprise, they received a request for the registration details of their vehicle. Thunder and Moreno have a total of four cycles between them, including a four-wheeler freight bike, but none of these vehicles - to their knowledge, at least - require registration by the good ol' DVLA in Swansea.

They do, however, require storage space for the vehicles, which would not fit into their rather compact living quarters. They told this to the officials, but the rules as currently drawn up appear to require that *if you want storage room, your vehicle must fume*.

Knowing that Hackney Council has officially adopted a new set of

## Meetings

First Wednesday of each month,  
8pm.

**The Pub on the Park  
London Fields  
London E8**

Usually we're in the room upstairs,  
but if it's too nice an evening to be  
inside, we'll be outside, but you'll find  
us easily enough.

**Next meeting: 2nd August  
Agenda includes activities on  
European Car-Free Day**

## Contacts

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## Info

### Self-help maintenance workshop

Every Thursday from 6.30pm to 9pm,  
Hackney City Farm, on the corner of  
Goldsmith Row and Hackney Road,  
E2

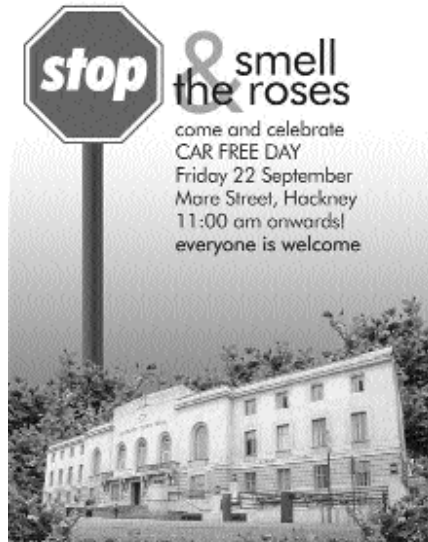
### Website

www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk

### Email group

There are now around 70 Hackney  
people keeping up to date on local  
cycling-related issues by email. It's  
also a great way for us to  
co-ordinate urgent stuff that can't  
wait for the monthly meetings. It's

## 22.09.00 – stop and smell the roses!



Friday September 22nd is European Car Free Day. For the third year running, hundreds of towns and cities across the continent are celebrating by freeing streets from cars for the day, and even in London the boroughs of Camden, Lambeth, Southwark and Merton are joining in. Why should Hackney be left out of the fun?

**Join a relaxed ride to visit London's other car-free streets in Camden, Southwark and Lambeth. Featuring mobile sound system, plus entertainment courtesy of the inimitable Chinese Elvis. Meet at Hackney Town Hall Square, 11am, on 22.09.00. All welcome!**

## Collision hotspot picked for improvement

LCC's Junctions Campaign aims to put the spotlight on one problematic junction per borough, says *Oliver Schick*, and I vote we focus on one of Hackney's most notorious - Shacklewell Lane and St Mark's Rise.

This junction is laid out to maximise speeds: Shacklewell Lane sweeps west to north-west in a wide (near-) semi-circle as St Mark's Rise meets it approximately halfway.

The problem arises from the shape of the kerb where they meet. Motorists turning into St Mark's Rise often do so at speed, ignoring or otherwise missing cyclists going straight on (the vast majority), and consequently there have been several collisions.

We would have to get collision statistics for the spot and do a morning cycle count with a

We're suggesting that the centre of Hackney should be made a car-free area for the day, stretching from the Town Hall Square up to the Pembury Tavern.

The vast majority of people coming to Hackney's town centre for their shopping or other business arrive by bus, by bike or on foot. For one day in the year (at least!), we think priority should go to the majority - shoppers, children, workers, retired people, tourists and all the rest - with fresh air, a relaxing atmosphere, entertainment and the chance to hear yourself think.

Local resident Ben Webster has been canvassing opinion among the retailers in Hackney town centre, finding a majority in favour of the idea, and letters have now gone out to councillors and officers.

Although there is still ample time to apply for a road closure for the day, it may be too late for Hackney to get its act together for 22.09.00, but we hope that this exercise will raise awareness and prepare the ground for a concerted Car Free Day on 22.09.01.

Whatever happens, there's going to be a laid-back Tour de Londres starting from the Town Hall on the day (see below).

For more information on Car Free Day contact Ben Webster on 020 7690 5206 or Trevor Parsons on 07010 706717.

sign inviting people to stop and air their views on the junction and how they feel about it.

It has also been suggested that the problematic left turn from Shacklewell Lane could be squared off using 'street lego' a la City 'Ring of Plastic', to make it less of an incentive for speeding. I wouldn't be surprised if some people wanted to do this themselves, to shame the Council into some activity.

The cost for improvements according to existing plans drawn up by the Council is in excess of £100,000, so there is little chance of that happening in the short term. If we build awareness of the issue now, though, perhaps we can see some kind of a solution realised before - God forbid - someone gets killed there. *Email Oliver at oliver.schick@kcl.ac.uk*

## Bike posse storms sponsored ride

This year's sponsored ride for the Homerton Youth Project was great, writes *Ian Campbell*. Numbers were a little lower than last year, but we had a lovely ride out on the Essex/Herts borders, and raised much-needed funds for the St Paul's Youth Centre in Homerton.

The ride is good for bringing the real enthusiasts together with those that fancy having something laid on, out on a car-free trip in the countryside. Extra special guests on the ride were youngsters David Evans and Pip

cruised alongside young David on our tandem as we approached the lunch break. At that point we did not know that he had attended the Posse. He was so full of it, and made it clear that his mum let him come on this bike ride because he had been in the Bike Posse.

By the way, he was on a bike with out gears and tiny tyres! But to see him roll down the last hill before lunch letting out a yelp of joy was really warming to two old cycling buffs like us. What's more, he made the whole 28-mile distance of the ride. What a star!