

# War on all car crime

Crimes committed by motorists are 'car crime' too

From the point of view of anyone who cycles in the borough, Hackney's Crime and Disorder Audit 1999/2001 had a big gap in it: plenty on 'car crime', defined largely as property crime against motor vehicles, but no mention of the surely much more important issue of road safety and driver crime. This, after all, is an area of London where speeding appears to go completely unchecked, and 'road rage' incidents are common, occasionally even resulting in murders.

The oversight might have been excusable, were it not for the fact that when Hackney's first Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy went out for consultation in 1998, pressure from Hackney LCC resulted in a 'Safer Highways Action Plan' being included under the chapter on Motor Vehicle Crime. Cases like this have made many of our members wonder if there is any point in taking part in such consultations, if there is no advance in understanding as a result.

However, Hackney LCC member Lucy Thomas

has taken the trouble to make a devastatingly well researched response on our behalf, including comments on speeding, enforcement, careless driving, cycle theft and policing by bike. You can read the response in full on our website.

Yen-Chit Chong, an LCC member and councillor, thinks it's worth taking part in these consultations, and that it's also well worth reporting incidents where motorists have committed crimes: "Cyclists have enough problems not being very visible to drivers or the legal system to participate in our own discrimination by keeping quiet about their worst excesses," he says.

He also recommends raising questions at the borough Community and Police Consultative Group, which chief superintendents are statutorily obliged to attend. Hackney's CPCG meets about every six weeks. For details contact. Zoe Koupparis on 020 8356 3307.

[www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk/strategy/crimedisorder.htm](http://www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk/strategy/crimedisorder.htm)

## Spare time?

We will be having our annual election to Hackney LCC's 'executive' positions at our February meeting.

Do you have some time, energy and ideas and would like to put yourself forward to be borough co-ordinator, deputy co-ordinator, treasurer, membership secretary or communications co-ordinator, or would you like to suggest another role that you might be able to carry out?

If the answer is yes, please get in touch with our current co-ordinator Tim (see contacts below), or come to a meeting (see left for time and place) to find out how you can help Hackney LCC promote cycling.



More than 500 people are members of the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney, and thousands more cycle in the borough every day.

Hackney LCC meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 8pm at the Pub on the Park, London Fields E8. Social from 7pm. Next meetings: Weds 5 December and Weds 2 January.

Join our email list today! Send a blank message to [hackney-lcc@yahoo.com](mailto:hackney-lcc@yahoo.com)

## STAbikes

Lots more children and parents at Sir Thomas Abney school are now bike-savvy, thanks to the school's bike project, STAbikes. The first phase of the project, co-ordinated by parent and LCC member Sally Haywill, has gone very well, with 70 children trained and 7/8 staff and parents brought up to speed. "I'm really happy with how it's gone," says Sally. "We even have four or five regular parent cyclists who look as if they are prepared to become cycle trainers in future." The project has been featured on TransNet, the National Children's Bureau's transport-related website.

[www.youngtransnet.org.uk](http://www.youngtransnet.org.uk)

## Please help!

Ross Corben, who has been a stalwart volunteer at our weekly Thursday evening self-help maintenance workshop (held at Hackney City Farm), has many calls on his time now, as has colleague Paul Standeven.

"I'd like to make an appeal to Hackney's finest to think about whether they have any time to share their cycle maintenance skills (or, indeed, any skills to share!)," says Ross. "We'll see if we can get a rota sorted out so the workshop runs a little bit more reliably than at present."

**If you can help, call Ross on 020 7503 4285.**

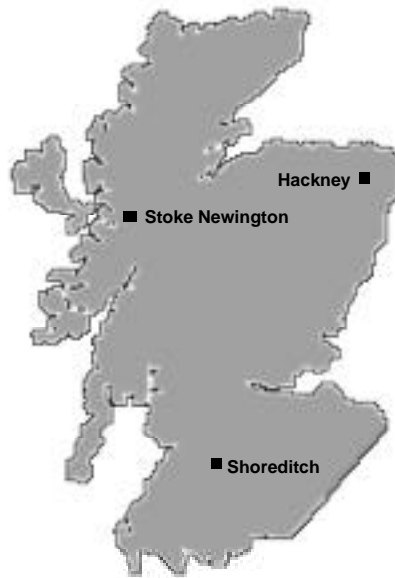


### CONTACTS

Co-ordinator / Deputy Communications Workshop Treasurer London School of Cycling Cycle Training Ltd Groundwork Hackney (SRTS) Hackney Transportation Dept Cycling in Hackney website

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Steve Walker 8356 8157 [www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk](http://www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk)

*The London Cycling Campaign in Hackney  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at its sixth annual*



*And there's a hand, my trusty fere!  
And gie's a hand o' thine!  
And we'll tak' a right guid-willie waught,  
For auld lang syne  
Mr Rabbie Burns*

*This is our main fundraiser of the year  
Helping us to promote cycling in Hackney  
So do come along and have a good time  
(And book early as this is always a popular event!)  
Ms Brenda Puch, Treasurer, Hackney Cyclists*

# *Hackney Burns Night*

*supper and dance*

*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002*

*6.30pm to 11.00pm*

*at Sir Thomas Abney Primary School Hall, Fairholt Road, London N16*

*Traditional fare of haggis, neeps, tatties and a dram. Vegetarians welcomed.*

*Recitations and party pieces (get practising yours now!).*

*After supper, the Scottish country dancing will be led by The Muckers. No experience necessary.*

*Tickets £12. Concessions £8. Children accompanied by parent/guardian £4.*

*Send cheque (payable to Hackney LCC) and stamped self-addressed envelope to:*

*Clare Groom, 63a Allen Road, London N16 8RQ*

*For further information, call Sally on 020 8802 4604*