

# Two-way at last!

You are cordially invited to come and celebrate Two Way Day on Sunday 15th December. Meet at 2.45pm at Shoreditch Town Hall, Old Street, for an anti-clockwise cycle ride around the Shoreditch Triangle (legally for the first time since 1965!), followed by tea and the cutting and eating of appropriately decorated cakes back at the Town Hall at 3pm.



It has finally happened. Way back in 1996 the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney joined local residents and businesses in the campaign to turn Shoreditch back to two-way. Now, right at the end of 2002, after years of lobbying and persuasion, and after almost a year of excruciating delays due to the roadworks, Shoreditch is consigning the motor-maniac 1960s one-way experiment to history.

The works now drawing towards their conclusion feature bus-and-cycle priority, wider footways, more pedestrian crossings, and more direct journeys for everyone. But this is just Phase I of a two-phase project. Still to come, at a yet-to-be-determined time in the, we hope, near future, are the following improvements:

- The reversion of Shoreditch High Street to two-way for all traffic, including private motor vehicles. In Phase I it is buses-and-cycles-only northbound. This is due to some inconveniently located fibre optics at a pinch point at which a precious extra metre of space needs to be allocated to the carriageway so as to support a

bus lane and a general traffic lane in each direction. Fibre optics are extremely expensive to move, we are told, hence the need to put this off until more budget is available.

- The resolution of the awful remaining problem at the 'apex' site (junction of Great Eastern Street and Old Street), where TfL has insisted on preserving the rat run from Great Eastern Street northbound into Pitfield Street, because they don't want to risk Old Street roundabout becoming congested, thereby causing traffic to back up on Great Eastern Street. The result, though, is a real mess at the apex site and, in particular, a poor quality solution for north-south pedestrian and cycle links, including LCN route 10.

We look forward an early resolution of these and the other remaining issues which we flagged up in 'Applying the Permeability Principle', our response to the plans for Phase I. Meanwhile, enjoy those more direct trips, those slower motor speeds and, of course, the chance to see the streets of Shoreditch from both directions!

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



A record 724 people are currently 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.

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

## CONTACTS

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# Blame the parents?

Sue Redgrave is one of the many Hackney cyclists experiencing aggro from kids on the Ecclesbourne Road cycle route, heading into Islington:

"After a few days of peace, they're back," she wrote on our email list. "Last night at 6.45pm I was hit by two missiles, an egg and a rock, thrown by four of the little b\*ggers who then proceeded to dance around screaming "come on, you f\*\*\*ing w\*\*\*\*er" before heading off back into Bentham Court (the estate). I called Islington Police to report it (020 7704 1212 – but had to wait over 30 mins to be connected) and the officer I spoke to asked me to encourage you all to report ALL incidents. He said that missiles don't have to hit you to be reported – if they chuck stuff and miss or even just shout verbal abuse, it should be reported.

"He did say though that response, unfortunately, is directly linked to the number of complaints received. He also said that we are entitled to use "reasonable force" in either defending ourselves or in making a citizen's arrest. If anyone is ever attacked by a

pair of approx 12-year-old *twins*, make sure you mention that in the report – apparently they're the only pair on the estate so that should make identification easy.

"If you can't spend the time hanging on the phone to report this stuff, you can also report online at <https://www.online.police.uk/> (although the categories given at the beginning don't cover "common assault" which I believe is what this would be classified as, the officer said to use this alternative)."

Alternatively, like local member Mark McGann, you can fax Islington Borough Commander Ron Hope on 020 7833 3990, or write to Islington Police Station, 2 Tolpudle street, N1 0YY

>> Lights along the London Fields cycling route which had been vandalised have recently been repaired. This follows pressure from London Fields User Group, with assistance from local LCC members.

## Northwold Road

Together with local residents' group NARG (Northwold Area Residents' Group), we are commenting on the Council's proposed traffic calming along Northwold Road N16/E5. Three speed tables (between Maury Road and Geldeston Road) and three speed cushions (between Rectorry Road and Osbaldeston Road) are proposed.

We think the measures don't go far enough and suffer from being one-dimensional. We therefore propose several pedestrian crossings along the road, as well as other complementary measures. You can study the proposals on our website ([www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk/northwold-road.htm](http://www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk/northwold-road.htm)), or contact Transportation, Dorothy Hodgkin House, 12 Reading Lane, E8 1HJ, or phone Danny Gayle on 020-8356 8250. Oliver is acting as our main point of contact for this scheme.

## Middleton Road

Ralph Smyth has been in contact with a number of residents involved in "Access Only" campaigning for Middleton Road (key cycle route between London Fields and De Beauvoir Town which is due to become part of the LCN+) to be made more people friendly.

Their chief demand is for road closures (or in our speak, modal filters) and, so as to stop rat-running motor traffic being diverted onto other local streets, a number of closures and ('false') one-way streets. They suggested marked cycle lanes for us but Ralph pointed out that with the removal of through motors there would be no need, besides which cycles would be traffic calming devices themselves.

A residents parking zone is to be set up before congestion charging starts. It's also suggested that there could be small areas of diagonal herringbone parking instead of the continuous linear layout. Ralph favours this idea for its potential to change the street layout/psychology and break up the straight line of sight that makes some drivers see the road as a racetrack.

Other Hackney LCC members voice reservations about diagonal parking, both because it makes it harder for fire crews to reach residences, and because it can result in motorists using the 'braille method' to back out of parking spaces.

Local resident Karen adds: "We've had two separate proposals on the table at full Council meetings: one about a barrier got thrown out; another, a big compromise, got unanimously ratified, about two years ago! But nothing has been done."

## Geldeston Road

We are commenting on proposals to develop the former Hackney Festival Support site at 32a Geldeston Road, N16. In particular, we are going to voice concern about the provision of adequate cycle parking. There will be a meeting with the architects on 3rd December. For more details contact Oliver.

## CEILIDH CRAZY

You can bop away the winter blues – and raise funds for LCC – at two great dance events this winter.

Inspired by Hackney LCC's annual Burns Night fundraiser, Greenwich Cyclists are putting on a similarly fab dancing do featuring The Muckers (fast, traditional, Celtic, seven-piece fiddle band). Pay bar, internal bike-park. Saturday 14th December, 8pm until midnight, at the West Greenwich Arts Centre. For booking info, see [www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk/events.html](http://www.greenwichcyclists.org.uk/events.html) or call Barry on 07905 889005.

Meanwhile, look out for info about Hackney Burns Night (25th January 2003) on our website, [www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk](http://www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk)

## Execs wanted

Our next meeting – Wednesday 4th December – is our Annual General Meeting, at which we appoint members to Hackney LCC's 'executive' positions. It's a pretty relaxed kind of election, but it is important that there's a regular chance to open up these volunteer posts to any Hackney LCC member who'd like to take on the responsibility.

If you have some time, energy and ideas, please do come and to put yourself forward to be borough co-ordinator, deputy co-ordinator, treasurer, membership secretary or communications co-ordinator – or feel free to suggest another role that you might be able to carry out on a regular basis this year.

Once again, that's **Wednesday 4th December, 8pm, Pub on the Park, London Fields. See you there!**

## City workers

The co-ordinator of the burgeoning City group, Ralph Smyth, now lives in Hackney. (Welcome, Ralph!) Having fewer than 7,000 residents of its own, the City group needs input from LCC members living in neighbouring boroughs. Several other Hackney cyclists are now supporting Ralph's work in establishing a City LCC group, but more help would be welcome. If you work or otherwise cycle through the City please contact us, even if it is something as straightforward as leafleting bikes at your workplace with the City newsletter.

Also, if you could help lay out a first copy of the City newsletter (all copy would be provided), please get in touch. Or just come along to the next City meeting. For details see <http://www.citycyclists.org.uk>