



stop & smell
the roses
come and celebrate
CAR FREE DAY
Friday 22 September
Mare Street, Hackney
11:00 am onwards!
everyone is welcome

Free!



Dancing in the streets as Elvis leads Hackney's cyclists in tour of London's celebrations of European Car Free Day, 22 September 2000

Congratulations to the four bold London boroughs who stuck their neck out this year.

From Camden, through Southwark to Brixton – even way down in sleepy Merton – car-free areas were opened up, to the delight of everyone who experienced them.

But apart from enjoying the big noise we made by starting off our tour of car-free areas in Mare Street with the King of rock and roll, the people of Hackney were deprived of their chance to participate.

Next year's event will be on a Saturday, and the Greater London Assembly is already planning on a really grand scale. Our guess is that Hackney won't be able to resist the temptation!



Councillor Chong sends off the tour with some words of wisdom (top). The King serenades the Mayor (left). Ken gets a lift (below) from cycle maker Rob Brock



The King in Dalston (top), Mare Street (below) and admiring The Godfather of Soul in Brixton (left)



Meetings

First Wednesday of each month,
8pm.

The Pub on the Park
London Fields
London E8

Usually we're in the room upstairs
Next meeting: 4th October
Agenda includes cycle counts
and junctions campaign

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 85
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 simple to join. Just send
a blank email to:

hackney-lcc-subscribe@egroups.com

Avast ye, landlubbers!



The author of this article doing a steady three knots on the River Lea

Drinkers at the Princess of Wales, by the River Lea, must have thought they'd had one too many when a group of Hackney cyclists started floating past on bicycles, writes Elly Stanley. **Was this a miracle? Were these people superhuman?**

Alas, not quite, although there was certainly wizardry at work. The trick was

actually done by attaching their bikes to the fiendishly clever Shuttle Bike Kit, which turns a bike into a boat. The kit consists of a light frame, two torpedo-shaped, inflatable floats and a pedal-powered propeller.

After a bit of head scratching over the instructions, the frames were finally set up and the bike-boats worked like a dream. Soon people were queueing up to have a turn. Getting on and off might have been a wobbly challenge, but with a float on either side and a sturdy frame, the bikes were surprisingly stable, and no-one got so much as a splash on a trouser leg. Pitfalls to watch out for included oncoming canoeists, strong currents and weeds lurking under the surface that can get tangled in the propeller. It's also important to remember that when you're floating down a river, your brakes don't work!

The event, which took place on 7 September, was organised by Hackney LCC member Simon Bannister to publicise the Bow Back Rivers Project, a charity that encourages the community to use the waterways more.

For more information about events on and around the Lea, tel: 020-8981 0040.

Here's how you can *really* count

We need eagle-eyed bike spotters. If you think you've got what it takes to get a visual fix on Hackney cyclists as they pass by at mind-boggling speeds – and to form a clear picture of where they are coming from and where they are going – we need you to help us in establishing a statistical profile of Hackney cycle traffic flows at several key junctions.

Essential for influencing policy on cycling and the attention accorded to

cyclists' concerns, 'manual' cycle counts are needed to complement the automatic counting schemes such as the one in Homerton reported in the last issue of *London Cyclist*.

To find out more, join us at one of our meetings (first Wednesday of every month, 8pm, upstairs at the Pub on the Park, London Fields) or get in touch with Oliver Schick on 020-8985 4989, e-mail oliver.schick@kcl.ac.uk

Get evolved, get involved!

New co-ordinator needed

Dr Doug steps down after long stint managing Hackney group

After five years hard-working years as borough co-ordinator, Douglas Carnall is standing aside. "I remain as dedicated to the aim of establishing cycle paradise in Hackney as I ever was," says Douglas, "but there's lots of good people active at the moment and it's time to give them a chance to demonstrate greater commitment. The changes in the Council mean that we have to be *more* pro-active, not less, and I have a lot of other priorities at the moment."

The election will be held at our

meeting on 4 October. Douglas plans to remain active. The job of borough co-ordinator means being committed to developing a thorough understanding of cycle policy issues, and following them in the borough.

Training and support will be given by other members of the campaign. The hours are flexible, the job is unpaid. Ideally you'll be able to spend about a day a month at it, as well as chairing group meetings, attending central LCC meetings, and working with Hackney Council.