
HUBbub

Newsletter of Redbridge, Havering, and Barking & Dagenham LCC Groups

October – November 2009

We're Retiring

Gill James and Chris Elliott will retire as joint-co-ordinators of Redbridge LCC at the next AGM in April 2010. Announcing the decision now will give other members plenty of time to organise replacements for these vacant posts. There are a number of areas involved, which can be shared out so that people can be involved as much or as little as they want.

1. Providing copy for and editing the bi-monthly group newsletter, sending this to LCC for circulation with London Cyclist, and also circulating it by email.

2 Organising the monthly Group Meeting programme, including arranging for guest speakers.

3. Organising a monthly rides programme

4. Organising an LCC stall, Dr Bikes, children's cycle activities etc. at local events such as the Redbridge Green Fair.

5. Updating the Redbridge LCC website on a regular basis

6. Campaigning activities, including attendance at the council's Cycling Liaison Group, meetings with other organisations, and commenting on planning applications and other proposals affecting cycling in the borough.

To find out more about what's involved, contact either of us for an informal chat:

Chris: 020 8989 6285

c.elliott@dsl.pipex.com

Gill: 020 8989 4898

gilljames@btinternet.com

Council Leads From The Front!

Redbridge Council are set to take three important steps to encourage their own employees to cycle more. A Bicycle User Group (BUG) is being formed, the allowance for cycle use at work is to be raised, and a bike purchase scheme is to be introduced. As a major employer in the borough, the Council will be leading by example.

Bike 2 Work

Four bike shops in the borough, including new Wanstead shop **Biketrax**, run by Martin Backes, are set to benefit from the introduction of a bike purchase scheme by Redbridge Council. Under the scheme, employees lease a new bike from the council, and payments are taken from gross salary over 12 – 18 months, saving tax and NI. At the end of this period the employee can purchase the bike with a final payment of about 15%. Savings can be up to 50% of the cost of a new bike. The Council is taking advantage of a government scheme that allows employers taking part to reclaim VAT. Council employees can also get a range of equipment through

the scheme such as helmets, lights, locks, clothing and pumps.

Making Allowances

At its last meeting on September 9th, the council's Cycling Liaison Group recommended raising the allowance for employees using their bikes to travel during the working day. Before the meeting, it stood at a pitiful 26p per day, which was claimed by just 8 people last year. It is hoped that the amount will now rise to around 20p per mile, giving a much greater incentive to travel between offices by bike.

Catch The BUG

A Bicycle Users' Group (BUG) is to be formed for council employees. BUGs are support groups for employees who cycle, or wish to cycle to work, and liaise with employers to improve facilities. Only a minority of council offices have adequate cycle parking or showering and changing facilities, and BUGs at workplaces can help to agree what needs to be done and how. The first meeting is on:

Tuesday 13th October
12:30 p.m.
Committee Room 2
Redbridge Town Hall

Lunch will be provided. If you work for the Council, this is your chance to show them that the demand for better facilities is there. If you already cycle to work, you can help others that

want to with advice, if you want to but aren't sure how, this is where you can start to find out.

Fairlop Wins Funds

Fairlop Country Park has secured £400,000 from the Mayor of London in the Priority Parks vote, which selected ten parks across London for improvements. This can include cycle facilities, and should help to provide a badly needed link in the Fairlop area.

Roding Valley Reopens?

A section of the Roding Valley Way, from the A12 Eastern Avenue to Vista Bridge, which has been closed for improvements to paths by the Environment Agency, is due to reopen at the end of the summer, but as always works may not finish on time.

Redbridge LCC Monthly Group Meetings

Join Redbridge LCC on the third Tuesday in the month at Wanstead House, 21 The Green, E11, and enjoy cheap drinks and free chat in the bar afterwards!

Coming Up...

Summer Rides & Events

Please check before you start to ensure there are no major changes. Look up www.redbridge.gov.uk for last-minute updates.

We welcome any suggestions of rides and events and particularly offers to lead or organise them. More short children's and beginners' rides wanted! Regular emails with updates of 'Coming Up' event listings go out to those on the mailing list.

If you want to join the email list please contact:

gilljames@btinternet.com

September

Cycle Maintenance Workshops

Wednesdays 23rd & 30th Sept, 7th & 14th Oct, 7.00 – 9.00pm

The next series of 4 Wanstead House workshops with Jim Dalton are a snip at £35.

Please sign up with Terry Hughes if interested:
terence.hughes@btinternet.com
07795 981 529

October

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th October:

Douai Abbey, Berkshire

Douai Abbey is a community of Benedictine Monks in Upper Woolhampton, near Reading, Berkshire, which rents out some cottages with comfortable dormitory-style self-catering accommodation. Rides on Saturday and Sunday in this delightful area. Chilli supper on Friday night and pub on Saturday night.

Limit of 15 places.

Booking: cheques for £40 made out to Gill James as soon as possible please (address under Contacts).

Tuesday 20th October

8.00pm

Film Nite!

The best of the recent Bicycle Film Festival, plus other filmic cycling delights, captured for us by film buff Bill Gentry. Bring your own popcorn.

Tuesday 17th November

8.00pm

Cycling Across America

Celia and Harry Lyons will tell us about their adventures on a six-month ride across the USA earlier this year. Unmissable.

Critical Mass

<http://cmlondon.enrager.net/>

Massive ride leaving Waterloo Bridge at 6.00 to 6.30pm on the last Friday of every month. You really should go at least once in your life and see the sights of central London in a group of hundreds of cyclists. It is a great experience. Richard Everett usually goes, leaving Walthamstow about 5:15 p.m.

Contact: Richard 020 8491 6306

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