

WHEELBENDERS 'R' US



New 'wheelbender' bike racks at Lidl, Clapham Junction

We're disappointed to report that, following recent refurbishment, the former high quality sheffield stands at Lidl's Clapham Junction store have been replaced by inferior wheelbenders, shown in the picture. Though well located for the shop's entrance, as before, the design is extremely poor in that they don't support a bicycle nor allow users to secure their cycles adequately. Needless to say, many cyclists are reluctant to use them. No response from Lidl, which is a private company, has been forthcoming to enquiries and complaints about these racks.

Be warned if you wish to shop at this store that cyclists' business apparently isn't valued!



Photo courtesy Mary Ann Tarver

All ends of the retail spectrum seem to have difficulty in acknowledging the value of the 'cycling pound'.

As well as making business sense to encourage shopping by bike, it's socially and environmentally responsible to do so.

We are therefore surprised to see a supermarket chain that prides itself on its

corporate social responsibility, Waitrose, with such poor provision at its Balham store

Approaches to store staff had had no impact to date... predictably, the racks are routinely ignored in favour of more practicable informal provision.

Both Lidl, Clapham Junction and Waitrose, Balham have large car parks.

WHEELBENDERS 'R' US *Wandsworth Council style*

Wandsworth Council Housing Department, which really should know better, is also not immune from 'wheelbenderitis'.



Perhaps the only good thing about the recently installed cycle parking on the Wendelsworth Estate in Wandsworth, funded using Environmental Improvement funding (by you and me, in other words...), is that it provides a useful case study in how *not* to provide residential cycle storage. As well as the design failures shown by the racks at Lidl and Waitrose, no thought appears to have been given to any management regime, nor to basic matters such as access to the parking or information about it. Understandably, and entirely predictably, people do not use the racks as whoever made them presumably intended; rather, as the picture shows, they attempt to make their bike as secure as possible.

It's clear that there is great – unmet – demand for secure residential cycle storage in our borough.

Although very welcome that, at long last, some consideration is being given to the needs of cyclists on this estate, WCC is extremely concerned at the abysmal provision resulting to date.

Plenty of guidance on cycle parking is freely available on the internet, from TfL, Department for Transport, Cycling England, as well as from user groups such as LCC and CTC as well as from Sustrans.

The Wendelsworth Affair is a missed opportunity to put the London Borough of Wandsworth in the forefront of good practice in promoting cycling. We're seeking to work with Wandsworth Council to reverse the decision to install this poorly designed cycle parking provision.

If you see or hear of any proposals to install similarly poor cycle parking in the borough, please let us know without delay by emailing feedback@wandsworthcyclists.org.uk

WCC Rides with Greenwich Cyclists

WCC Members now have an additional monthly ride, meeting up with the Greenwich Cyclists group. Wandsworth Cyclists meet at Clapham Junction at 9.30am for the cycle to Beckenham Junction, via Streatham, Tulse Hill, West Dulwich, Crystal Palace Park, where we meet up with the Greenwich cyclists.

From there, the ride heads to Westerham (Kent) and south east towards either Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, East Grinstead, or Three Bridges. Distances will vary and final decisions will be taken by those who turn up and depends on weather conditions on the day.

The ride dates are in the calendar, note that these are on Saturday. Judging by this report from the first outing, the rides are a lot of fun!

The joint ride on Saturday 18th August was very memorable climbing over the Weald of Kent and looking across to the South Downs 30 miles away. Lunch overlooking the village green was briefly interrupted by the funny sight of ladies hats blowing away in the wind and the attendant 4x4's trying to park in ever-so-tight parking spaces and the high and mighty dressed up to the nines with wellies on their feet to keep out the potential risk of foot & mouth disease from spreading into the church. Later when taking a liquid refreshment in Clapham Junction I cobbled together this little jingle:

'The rolling hills of Kent and Surrey, pass by in a hurry,

*But when stopping for a pee in Bletchingley,
Club cyclists whizz past quite fetchingly,
In their bright tight-fitting lycra suits as if to say
'I don't give a hoot, look at me!'
Leaving not a lot to the imagination.*

*And by the free house in Lingfield,
riders were very aware of the deep seated
ruralism with small talk made about its isolation
following the Beeching cuts in rail lines.*

*'Shame on East Sussex Council for turning the
railway line into a dual carriage way and calling
it "Beeches Way", they cry.'*

*But to the west the Worth Way makes a very
worthy passage along the length of a former
track-way, through crawling Crawley to Three
Bridges.*

*Then the cramped shared train carriage back to
Clapham, with other crud-splattered panting
lycra lads amongst bikes caked in Surrey's
finest mud.*

Ideas for new rides are very welcome. Please send to: rides@wandsworthcyclists.org.uk

Tour d'allotments



Welcome tea and biscuits on arrival at Sailor Prince

A group of intrepid cyclists set off on a wet Sunday morning to visit all 10 of Wandsworth's allotment sites, with your correspondent joining a little later (once the rain had eased off). The tour, very loosely based on the Tour de France, was organised by Geraldine Kelly of Wandsworth's allotments service as part of National Allotments Week. Geraldine recognised that, given the geographical spread of sites across the borough, cycling is of course the perfect way to see them.

Wandsworth Cycling Campaign (WCC) is the local group of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) in the London Borough of Wandsworth, UK. We exist for the benefit of everyone who cycles or might cycle in and through the borough of Wandsworth.



Best kept plot in Wandsworth
(and possibly the world)

Owing to my slightly late start, I missed seeing the Balham allotment site which has the distinction of having the highest ratio in London of ploholders, or 'plotters', to people on the waiting list. (Admittedly it only has six plots). The variety of sites was a surprise to us, each with its own very distinctive style.

The two Doverhouse Estate sites impressed with their 'potager' look and stunning loos, Beatrix Potter with its grass pathways and fruit and fig trees, Garratt Park with its ensuite fishing and frequently updated weatherboard, and Sailor Prince (thank you to Sue for generous hospitality) with the tidiest and most productive plot I've ever seen.

Having decided to leave Wandsworth's Morden outpost allotment to another occasion, the remainder of us paid a visit to the renovated 'Telegraph' on Putney Heath for some welcome refreshment.



Beer and allotments seems to go together

Thanks to Geraldine for organising it all – we look forward to the Morden instalment.



Cat in supervisory role at Doverhouse allotments

Cycle Maps

Wandsworth cyclists will be able to see the latest London cycle route maps at the click of a mouse. Fourteen maps covering 4000km of cycle routes across London are to be made available on the TfL website. The maps show the quickest routes and locate stations which provide parking for bicycles. Visit tfl.gov.uk

Girls Cycling Sessions

Girls Revolutions starts 29th September Two wheeled off the road adventures for girls aged 6-16. All levels welcome including beginners. Every Saturday 9.30-11am at Herne Hill Velodrome, Burbage Road, SE24. £2 per session, free bike and helmet hire available if needed.

British cycling coaches will take you through all the skills needed for mountain biking – using gears, bike control down hills and up, cornering and jumping obstacles. A fun course with skills games aimed at improving your skills and introducing you to cycling as a sport and recreational activity. Get fit... get ready... go...

New LCC chief executive to visit Wandsworth

LCC's new chief executive, Koy Thomson, is keen to visit local groups and we will be arranging for him to come to a forthcoming monthly meeting. Check the Calendar page of our website for details:
www.wandsworthcyclists.org.uk/events.shtml

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 9th October

Monthly Meeting

7.00pm, Friends Meeting House,
59 Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PT
(opposite the Town Hall)
Followed by a drink at the Brewers Inn, corner of East Hill & St Ann's Hill.

Saturday 20th October

Monthly Ride with Greenwich Cyclists

Meet: Clapham Junction Station foyer, 9.30am.
Contact Martin: 07946 354 852

Sunday 21st October

Monthly Ride

Meet: Clapham Junction Station Foyer at 10am.
*Note earlier meeting time
Train assisted to Effingham Junction
Approx 30 miles over North Downs to Horsham
Pub lunch en-route.

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Saturday 17th November

Monthly Ride with Greenwich Cyclists

Meet: Clapham Junction Station foyer, 9.30am.
Contact Martin: 07946 354 852

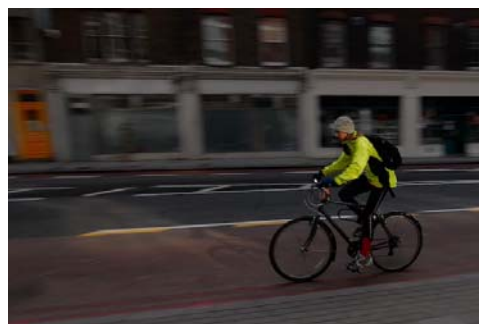
COG Gallery



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Photo courtesy of Martin Ireland

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