

November 2009

Lambeth

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The news update for people who want to make a difference



Packed house for rare UK cycling legend Q & A evening for Black History Month

It's a cold slightly damp Tuesday night in Streatham and all cycle routes lead to Streatham library where there is a buzz of anticipation inside as Maurice Burton is about to take to the stage and talk to over seventy adoring fans.



It's the first event of Black History Month to be held the Library and it's bursting at the seams with bicycles, wine, nibbles and excitement.

Maurice Burton made cycling history in the 70s by becoming Britain's first ever black senior champion and evidently this very humble man who now runs a bike shop and Cycle Team 'De Ver' on Streatham High Road was one of - if not the greatest cyclist of his time.

Charismatically interviewed by Lincoln Romain from Brixton Cycles, Maurice spoke of his great wins, great bikes, great rivals and great friends from his time as a professional in the seventies and eighties, revealing some classic track and roadside stories. He also spoke of his upbringing in southeast London, weekly school outings to Herne Hill Velodrome and how he salvaged his second bike

from an accident and rode it all the way to the commonwealth games at the age of sixteen.

One question asked by Lincoln was 'Do you know how popular you are?' to which he timidly answered 'no', that 'he guessed he didn't!' But the fact is that he is more popular than ever, so much so that people were talking about this event all over the internet, on forums, in bike shops, even at traffic lights!

Maurice has always been a bit of a cult figure but now is finally getting the recognition he deserves as a pioneering cycling legend.

He charmed the audience to such a point that there were suggestions that he should be the BBC's cycling expert at the next Olympics.



After the interview Maurice fielded questions from the audience. These questions continued out on the street when the library shut at nine o'clock and he stuck around to talk with his fans and fellow cycling enthusiasts.

De Ver Cycle shop can be found at 632 - 634 Streatham High Road, SW16 3QL

Lambeth Business Travel Network eco-driving challenge event success

The LBTN quarterly meeting was held in Streatham's Chilli Chutney last Thursday based around the theme of sustainable driving. Guest speaker Craig Barrack from the new car sharing website 'Carbon Heroes' spoke about the benefits to businesses of having such a website for staff and how it can save money and lower carbon emissions. Rebecca Bear from the Energy Savings Trust also presented and brought along her 'better driving simulator' for everyone to try out. Attendees competed in a Top Gear style challenge to win a Sat Nav. The aim of the simulator is to show how efficient motoring can help you save money and cut your carbon footprint at the same time. The trick is to check your revs and change gear between 2000 rpm and 2500 rpm, watch your speed and step off the accelerator early when approaching a red light or roundabout to reduce your fuel consumption.



DIY  PLANET REPAIRS

Council wins award for innovative cyclist awareness project for lorry drivers

Lambeth Council received an award for an innovative project which gives cyclists and lorry drivers the chance to change places with each other. The London Cycling Campaign presented the council with the award for the Best Workplace Cycling Initiative for its awareness campaign for cyclists and drivers of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

The project gives cyclists the opportunity to sit in the cab of a lorry to find out about the blind spots in the lorry driver's view, and provides practical cycle training for lorry drivers working for the council so that they can experience what it feels like to cycle on the road next to large vehicles. Cyclists also learn from cycle trainers how to position themselves safely when riding near to a large vehicle and never to ride on the left hand side of an HGV. The project aims to tackle the danger that large vehicles pose to cyclists and to reduce the chance of cyclists being injured or killed in a collision with an HGV. Sadly, three cyclists were killed in Lambeth in 2008 as a result of a collision with a left-turning lorry.

The council has been working with its waste management contractor, Veolia, over the past year to train all of the drivers of the council's refuse vehicles and school buses on the cyclist awareness programme. The drivers participate in a classroom discussion session where they think about what they would like cyclists to do in order to be safer on the roads, and then about what they can do to make things safer for cyclists. So far 52 drivers have been trained and 330 Lambeth cyclists have attended the HGV awareness sessions. The council is now rolling out the scheme to all other drivers of HGVs working for the council and plans to extend the scheme to all businesses based in Lambeth.



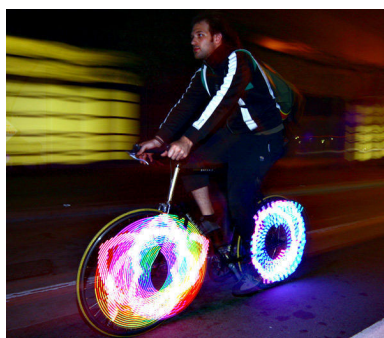
Patience is called for whilst Brixton Gyration is finished

The Brixton Hill gyratory is being removed and improved as part of the Mayor and TfL's Brixton Town Centre improvement work. It has already seen pavements in the town centre widened, the installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing and improvements to bus lanes in the area.

Brixton gyratory was an unpleasant relic of the past and going back to two-way is simple common sense. The new square, which joins Tate Gardens and Windrush together, has been designed to fit in with the historic character of the area. Kulveer Ranger, The Mayors Transport Advisor said: *'The Brixton Town Centre Improvement scheme is now entering its final stages and I ask residents to bear with us while the finishing touches are being made to the area.'*

The latest technology in cycle road safety

Do you worry about getting 'side-swiped' by a motorist turning into your path? Well Monkeyelectrics have come up with a great and cool looking answer. Monkey lights are fitted into the spokes of a bicycle and comprise of a number of lights which then form a pattern as the wheel turns. They are highly visible, looking a lot like lit up 'spokey dokeys' from the 80s and could help reduce the number of accidents caused when motorists fail to spot cyclists from the side.



He's Electric!



Councillor Nigel Haselden road tests a brand new electric bike for Lambeth Council with a view to trialling one as a pool bike. Electric bikes work just like ordinary bikes except that an electric motor can be engaged to assist the pedalling which is especially useful when going up hills. The Bike also carries luggage and is ideal for turning up at meetings sweat free. Councillor Haselden said, 'These are enormous fun and would make a perfect pool bike as the seat and handlebars are easily adjustable to fit any size. It also charges in 3 hours and uses less electricity than a light bulb doing so.'