

# Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall  
March 2010

## The less Shed the better

*For convenience, many people now keep their bikes in their front gardens, but thieves are an ever-present danger. David Eales checks out the latest bike sheds.*

I've been keeping my bikes in my wooden shed for ever, but with the addition of a recumbent trike something had to give. It was time for a new shed. I looked long and hard at Trimetal's model, but whilst looking at other offerings I came across the Asgard range. The firm makes a selection of metal storage units, from small ones to store valuables in the home, right up to large metal sheds. In between are two units specifically designed for bikes; one to store 3 and one to 4. I plumped for the smaller one, if nothing else to stop me buying any more bikes.

The units differ from Trimetal in that they are front opening rather than top, they also have a number of features that appealed to me; optional accessories such as shelving, hooks and an additional wooden floor.

The order process was painless and true to their word they phoned seven days before the estimated delivery date and confirmed the precise date and time which they duly kept to.

The unassembled unit is quite daunting, nine sheets of metal and a large selection of screws, although upon closer inspection there are in fact only two types of screws, just lots of them! The instructions are clear and concise and the only tool you need is a screwdriver, given the number of screws an electric one is of great benefit. The instructions stress the base must be level and ideally on concrete or slabs, but the base is sheet metal so it could sit on earth.

I managed to construct it on my own, although the roof section is the largest single piece and does take some strength to move it into place. The whole process took

me just over an hour-and-a-half and the instructions really were clear. Each part has a sticker on it saying what it is. The doors were a little fiddly but still far easier to hang than wooden ones would be.



First impressions are good, the unit really does fit 3 bikes as the photographs show and the shelving unit

makes a big difference to store the usual stuff. The whole unit feels rock solid and very secure and the lock should be enough to deter most people, the next model up allows you to add your own padlock. The whole thing can be secured further using ground bolts and there are optional ground anchors too. Some people might be tempted to chain the bikes together to further frustrate a thief.



The unit is not cheap compared to wooden models, but it comes with a 10 year warranty and it does look the part. It's not attractive as it is a big metal box at the end of the day, but I hope it will still be in the same condition in a few years time as it is now.

I prefer this over the Trimetal model, the shelving and hooks are a nice touch and not being top opening means you can store things on top of it. The advantage of the Trimetal is that you can access any bike as the unit is top opening and you therefore don't need lots of space at the front making it ideal for a narrow passage.

## Rides...

New rides are added all the time, and details may change, so do check our web site for the latest information:

[www.ealingcycling.org](http://www.ealingcycling.org)

### Sunday 4th April 2010 Hampton Court

A ride along the Thames to Hampton Court and then back via Bushey Park. About 24 miles but maybe longer or shorter depending on the weather and condition of the paths.

Leader: Paul

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

### Sunday 2nd May 2010 Black Country Park

A long awaited return to Black Country Park - 2009 saw a much praised route there and back that is still talked about!

Leader: Murray

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

### Sunday 6th June 2010 Eltham Palace

Ben returns to this hidden gem in south east London due to popular demand. Full details nearer the time

Leader: Ben

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

### 19th to 27th June 2010 Bike Week

We will be running a series of rides during ride, including family rides. Please check our web site nearer the time for more details.

## Meetings & Contacts

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Cafe Grove, 65 The Grove, Ealing W5 5LL. Our next meetings will be on Wednesday 7th April and Wednesday 5th May 2010, at 7.30 pm.

[info@ealingcycling.org](mailto:info@ealingcycling.org)  
[www.ealingcycling.org](http://www.ealingcycling.org)  
ECC, PO Box 47292, London, W7 9AZ