

# Spinning past all the records

## SANTANDER CYCLES SEES A HUGE INCREASE IN USERS DURING ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

IT has been a record year for TfL's Santander Cycles scheme, with new memberships rising by 157 per cent during 2020 compared to 2019.

Total hire numbers for the year increased by 6,000 from 2019, which is even more impressive given the significant reduction in journeys made across London in 2020. Over the course of the year, the previous maximum daily hire number of 50,000 was surpassed on 14 separate days as record numbers of people tried the scheme for the first time.

The bikes provided a lifeline for Londoners during the pandemic, enabling them to make essential journeys safely, as well as to keep active. Santander Cycles also had a crucial part to play in supporting NHS staff and key workers,

with almost 220,000 hires made using the free access code scheme, which is running again until February 21.

### SANTANDER CYCLES COMPETITION WINNERS

To celebrate its tenth anniversary year, TfL and cycle hire scheme sponsor Santander have awarded a free annual membership to a dedicated cycle hire user for each month of 2020, as well as naming a bike in their honour.

Winner Jessica Streeting is a children's nurse in central London, who often uses the bikes to cycle her 15-mile round trip to work. 'Santander Cycles are a reliable, enjoyable lifeline to me and especially in winter as they have great lights and are always well maintained,' she said.

'When a patient lives out of the borough and I need to get on a train to see them, I'll frequently hire a Santander Cycle at the station to see me home because it saves me worrying about lights and locks. Santander Cycles are keeping me safe and healthy and they are perfect for nurses!'

Another winner, Matt Lambert from Hackney, said: 'For me the scheme is a win-win, saving me money while also boosting my fitness, cutting travel times and allowing me to play a small part in reducing London's air pollution.'

'Following a major physical trauma in November 2019, which left me temporarily disabled, Santander Cycles also became a personal milestone when I rode a bike again for the first time in nearly six months. They've been an important part of my recovery ever since.'

The other latest winners include Nitij Arora from Canary Wharf, Owen Calvert from Paddington and the outreach team at St Mungo's, the homelessness charity.

### CYCLING BOOM

TfL continues to introduce new measures to improve and modernise the scheme. These include recently building five new docking stations, updating the terminals and back office systems to enable the potential for e-bikes and using GPS tracking to ensure bikes are always available to hire.

TfL is working closely with London's boroughs to create space for cycling across the city. This includes building a strategic network for cycling in London, transforming town centres and reducing traffic on residential streets. As part of the Streetspace for London programme, 90km of new or upgraded cycle lanes have been delivered or are under construction since May 2020 in response to the pandemic.

The scheme is easy to use and bikes can be hired from as little as £2 a day for an unlimited number of 30-minute journeys.

To find out more about the scheme, visit [tfl.gov.uk/cycling](https://tfl.gov.uk/cycling)



**A winner all round:** (clockwise from top) The bikes are cleaned regularly; docking stations are available across the capital; Matt Lambert is an avid user; Jessica Streeting recommends the scheme to all Londoners

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