

QUICK RELEASES

***This month:** cycle-friendly MPs; CTC's Big Bike Revival underway; Road Justice updates; and event highlights for June and July*

STAY IN TOUCH

CYCLECLIPS: CTC's free weekly email newsletter – email your membership number to membership@ctc.org.uk

CYCLE CAMPAIGN NEWS: CTC's monthly campaigns bulletin. Sign up at ctc.org.uk/subscribe-to-cycle-campaign-news



VOTES OF CONFIDENCE



There's a new Parliament. Thanks to CTC's Vote Bike campaign, we know which MPs in it support cycling, says **Sam Jones**

WE DON'T YET know what the new Government will do for cycling, but we have identified our new parliamentary allies, thanks to the success of our Vote Bike online campaign.

Vote Bike was launched on 2 April. It provided a simple way for constituents to quiz their parliamentary candidates on five topics: ambition; funding; design standards; safety; and positive promotion.

The main purpose was always to identify our allies in Westminster for the next five years. In five weeks, nearly 25,000 emails

were sent out by our supporters, resulting in 882 responses out of the 3,248 candidates (27%) for whom we had email addresses.

The response was extremely positive: 844 of the 882 candidates who responded showed strong support for cycling. Constituents have also found it a useful way of engaging with the political process, with one supporter saying: 'It's a good resource that's made me feel a little bit involved in the election and a little less powerless.'

We were pleased that three out of the five national political party leaders engaged with

Vote Bike, showing their support for cycling: Natalie Bennett (Green), Nick Clegg (Lib Dem) and David Cameron (Conservative).

Cameron's response was particularly encouraging. While he failed to agree with our call to increase cycling levels to 10% of all trips by 2025 and a revision of the Highway Code, he showed his support for the creation of consistently high design standards for cycling in all highway and traffic schemes, new developments and planned road maintenance work. This is something we hope the new Government will deliver on, as the last Government had strongly resisted it. It would be a huge win for the Space for Cycling campaign too.

The first 100 days of the new Prime Minister are a crucial time. In coalition with cycling partners, health bodies, and others, CTC will be making the case for cycling louder than ever before, while at the same time drawing up spending proposals with officials from the Department for Transport.

The first half of 2015, with the introduction of the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, was a fantastic start to the year. Momentum has been slowed by five weeks of electioneering, but through Vote Bike CTC will be hitting top speed in no time. As ever, we couldn't have done it without your support: your involvement made Vote Bike such a success.

FAREWELL TO TWO CHAMPIONS

Much as we look forward to getting to know new parliamentary allies, we must also bid farewell to two great champions of cycling in the last Parliament: Julian Huppert and Norman Baker MP both narrowly lost their seats in the cull of the Lib Dems. CTC thanks them both for everything they have done for cycling in their respective roles as co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG) and as junior transport minister (2010-13). We hope they will find ways to stay involved in promoting cycling.

www.ctc.org.uk/campaign/vote-bike



The BIG BIKE Revival.

STIMULATING CYCLING

CTC's Big Bike Revival is underway as you read this. **David Murray** reports on the launch – and its goals

THIS MARCH SAW CTC get the green light from the Department for Transport as it announced a £1million backing of our Big Bike Revival programme. The project set out to reach 50,000 people in England with a simple message: rekindle your love of bicycles, and in return we'll fix yours for free!

By highlighting and then harnessing the great work of local bicycle recycling centres across the country, the Big Bike Revival offers free bike maintenance services, tips on maintaining your bike, and an opportunity to donate unwanted cycles. You can also sign up for cycle training courses to gain (or regain) confidence in the saddle.

Our pilot project last autumn confirmed our suspicions: that many people fondly remember their childhood years of cycling, and have enjoyed cycling from time to time since then. But with 42% of people owning a bike and 63% of them not cycling in the past year, it was also clear that a major intervention is needed to achieve a progressive shift from 1% to 10% of trips being made by bike by 2025.

In our pilot project, 38% of those

attending were not regular cyclists, but a third of participants subsequently committed to cycling at least once a week. So we set about scaling-up the project.

We started to build a directory of bicycle recycling centres across England. We then recruited these centres into the programme by providing funding in return for an agreed local target number of events and anticipated event-goers. We set up a demonstration day to invite the press for a taste of what was to come, taking the opportunity to shine a light on the great work that is happening year-round in Manchester in support of cycling.

We invited a celebrity to front our campaign, and Martine McCutcheon (former East Enders and Love Actually star, pictured above) joined us to help promote our messages. Finally, we provided the bicycle recycling centres with access to promotional materials for use at their events and online, and made calls to targeted local media outlets to encourage promotion there.

We look forward to sharing more of our findings later this year in Cycle.

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CYCLE SHORTS

• SPREADING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

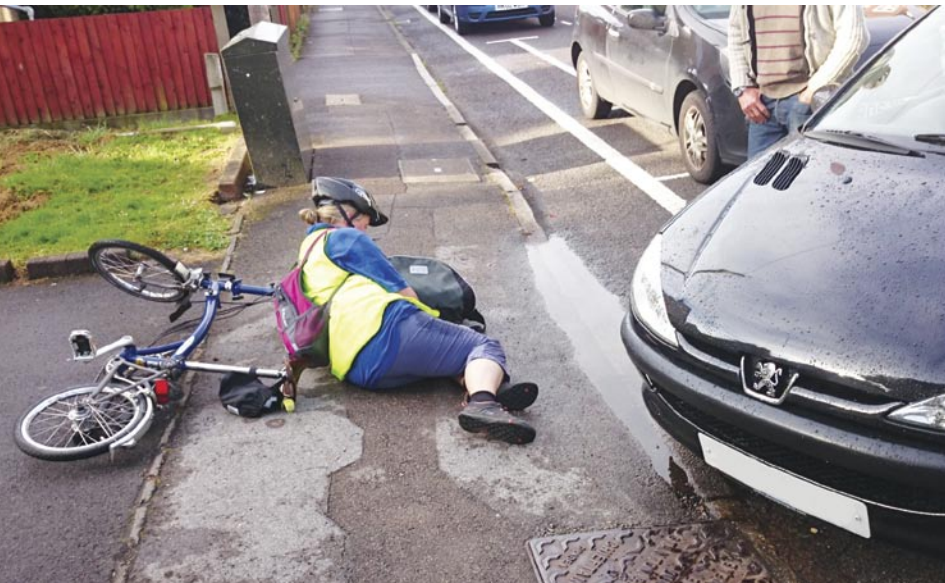
The CTC Community Cycling Clubs programme is growing nationwide as part of the wider existing network of 650 CTC affiliated groups comprising Community Clubs, Inclusive Cycling Centres, Campaign groups and workplaces. CTC has secured almost half a million pounds in new funding this year in Plymouth, Reading, Surrey, Hampshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Essex to develop 50 new Community Cycling Clubs. Working closely with local authorities and community organisations in these areas, CTC will support these organisations to set up and run cycling activities that suit their local audience. For more information, see ctc.org.uk/project/community-cycle-clubs

• WANTED: MECHANICS & RIDE LEADERS

We are on the lookout for volunteers to support CTC in making three big cycling events a great success this summer. If you're an experienced bike mechanic, we are seeking Dr Bike volunteers for the NSPCC Tour of England (events over 6-7 June, 20-21 June, 4-5 July, and 18-19 July). Similarly, we would love your Dr Bike support at Ride London (1 and 2 August). If you are a ride leader, then your help on the Countrywide Great Tour (4 July-5 September) will help to make this a truly memorable event. To find out more about these great opportunities, and to sign up to offer your support, visit ctc.org.uk/support-ctc/volunteer

• MEMBER GROUP UPDATES

- East Yorkshire Cyclists' Touring Club is celebrating its 90th anniversary with a ride/reunion on 12 July. Contact sheilasampson@eastyorkshirectc.org.uk
- CTC Wantage is holding a special general meeting to elect a new secretary at 6.30pm on 7 July at **Old Mill Hall, Grove, Oxfordshire**. Contact John Tranter: **07836 238350**
- CTC West has formally dissolved as a CTC member group. Votes were 33 for, 5 against, 2 abstentions.



ATTENTION, DRIVERS!



CTC's Road Justice campaign continues to fight for cyclists whose lives have been changed – or ended – by drivers. **Rhia Favero** provides an update

WHEN CTC launched the Road Justice campaign in 2013, we were under no illusion that rebalancing the justice system in favour of victims and the vulnerable would be swift. Yet it's critical for road safety.

We aim to ensure that road collisions are thoroughly investigated and that victims receive timely and accurate information about their case; motoring offences are overhauled so that appropriate action can be taken against offenders; and sentencing policy is adapted so that offenders pay the right price for their crime and are discouraged from re-offending.

These goals, and our recommendations for achieving them, were laid out in three reports, and have been repeated at meetings with ministers, at high profile debates, and at police conferences in an effort to transform attitudes to road crime.

MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE

In CTC's response to the Government's review of driving offences and penalties, we reiterated our calls for more and longer driving bans, greater transparency in police and CPS decision making, and better monitoring and reporting of criminal justice data, among other recommendations. We discussed these constructively with Mike Penning MP and his officials before the election, and look forward to working with

him now that he has kept his job as Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims.

In 2015, we plan to increase the pressure on the police and politicians locally and nationally – including Police and Crime Commissioners – to prioritise roads policing for investment and to use evidence-based enforcement of road traffic law. We will do this by supporting local campaigners through training and advice, and by creating an online network for campaigners to share their experience of what works and what doesn't when attempting to change local police attitudes and priorities.

The Cyclists' Defence Fund (CDF), which supports the Road Justice campaign, is currently helping a handful of families seek redress in cases of miscarriage of justice. They are supporting: the family of 18-year-old Daniel Squire, killed by a texting driver who was acquitted of all charges; the family of 68-year-old Michael Mason, killed by a driver who ran into him from behind and was never charged; and the family of 12-year-old Jake Mitchell, who were told that the driver who hit him would not be charged – only for a senior prosecutor to overturn the decision on appeal.

By fighting cases that exemplify the failings of the justice system, we will highlight the desperate need for improvements.

More at roadjustice.org.uk

CYCLE SHORTS

• STAND FOR CTC COUNCIL

CTC Council is the body elected by members to take CTC forward and ensure that what we do benefits cycling. Councillors are elected for a three-year period to represent the members in their region, and nominations are now being sought for councillors for the South East, North West and East Midlands regions from the 1 January 2016. Nomination forms are available on the CTC website and from National Office and must be returned by 15 August 2015.

Chair of Council, David Cox said: 'We are keen to encourage and attract a wide range of candidates with a variety of skills, ideally in finance, fundraising and marketing. It's an exciting time to join CTC Council, with a number of significant changes being discussed and consulted on at present. One of these major pieces of work being an important review on CTC's governance, the results of which may bring changes to the terms of office and other aspects of the role. We're looking for inspired individuals who want to influence the future of cycling and who understand what it takes to lead a £4million organisation.'

To find out more, have a look at the CTC website, or talk to an existing Councillor or the Chief Executive at National Office – details on the Contacts sheet included with this issue of Cycle – to find out what is involved. The nomination forms include the full requirements for standing.

• NEW FOREST CYCLING WEEK

The CTC New Forest Cycling Week returns to Avon Tyrrell Manor, near Burley, from 24 July to the morning of 1 August. Founded in 1975 at Brockenhurst, the rally attracts around 200 attendees each year. It's an informal, camping-based event for families, small groups and individuals. People are welcome to stay for the whole week or just a few days. There are several rides to choose from most days, with days out to the Isle of Wight, Lymington and Calshot Velodrome being firm favourites. Evening on-site activities include a barn dance, barbecue, children's time trial, and swimming sessions. More details at newforestrallycc.org.uk

• YORK RALLY

York Rally returns as an independently run event to the Knavesmire in York on the weekend of 20-21 June. There will be rides each day, grasstrack racing, a trade show, a saddlebag sale, and displays. For more details, visit the website yorkrally.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June and July are busy months for CTC. **David Murray** spotlights what's on when – and outlines how you can find out more and get involved

MORE ONLINE

For a searchable list of events, visit www.ctc.org.uk/uk-cycling-events

BIG BIKE REVIVAL

WHEN: 23 MAY-7 JUNE
WHERE: ACROSS ENGLAND

CTC's Big Bike Revival aims to get tens of thousands of people back in the saddle through free events across the country – repairs, recycling, led-rides and advice. We'd love your help promoting this campaign to friends, family and neighbours so you can encourage them to fall in love with cycling too. bigbikerevival.org.uk



CTC TRAIL LEADER COURSE

WHEN: 12-14 JUNE
WHERE: SEE BELOW

CTC offers a wide range of qualifications and training courses for every type of cycling leader, guide, instructor, rider and trainer. Mountain Bike Trail Leader courses are taking place this June at the Dales Bike Centre, Epping Forest and Coed Llandegla. www.ctc.org.uk/training



BIKE WEEK

WHEN: 13-21 JUNE
WHERE: NATIONWIDE

Demonstrating the social, health and environmental benefits of cycling, Bike Week aims to get people across the UK cycling for fun and transport. Why not organise an event at work – such as a social ride, bike breakfast, Dr Bike maintenance session or workplace challenge (p42)? Register your event for free support and advice at bikeweek.org.uk

EROICA BRITANNIA

WHEN: 19-21 JUNE
WHERE: BAKEWELL

CTC will be setting up camp in beautiful Bakewell in The Peak District National Park from the 19-21 June for the second edition of Eroica



Britannia. There are three days of music, food, drink, and acres of shopping, plus three fantastic rides (30, 55 or 100 miles). Join 3,000 riders as they take to their pre-1987 bikes and head for the hills. eroicabritannia.co.uk

CYCLE CITY ACTIVE CITY

WHEN: 25-26 JUNE
WHERE: NEWCASTLE

Rather like a domestic Velo-City (which takes place in Nantes, France from 2-5 June; see velo-city2015.com), this conference and exhibition is designed for those working to encourage utility cycling, walking and active, healthy lifestyles. CTC will be showcasing the Big Bike Revival (p10). landor.co.uk/cycleactivecity

THE COUNTRYWIDE GREAT TOUR

WHEN: 4 JULY-5 SEPTEMBER
WHERE: NATIONWIDE

This 64-day journey is Britain's ultimate long-distance cycling challenge: a 6,800km circumnavigation that never loses sight, sound or the smell of the sea. It sets off from Holyhead on the Isle of Anglesey. Each stage is around 100km. Ride one, several or all 64! See p36 or visit thegreattour.co.uk

CTC AGM

WHEN: 18 JULY
WHERE: LONDON

CTC's AGM is at 2.30pm on Saturday 18 July in London – see page 17 for details. The practical workshops we have previously hosted as part of the AGM have been so popular that we have decided to hold a separate Members' Conference on 10 October at the University of Warwick. The conference will focus on how CTC makes the most out of the bicycle boom. Bookings will be open soon on the CTC website.