

this is cycling UK



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Jammed up thinking

The reality of ripping out bike lanes doesn't match the congestion promises of car-focused councils doing just that, writes Chief Executive **Sarah Mitchell**

Amidst chilly winter mornings and national lockdowns at the start of 2021, it was heartening to hear about Cycling UK member group CTC Coventry celebrating their 100th birthday this year. That's 100 years of cycling, camaraderie, and community. The club has continued through all the challenges and changes of the last century, and its thriving membership speaks to the enduring appeal of cycling, through all sorts of adversity. Here's to their next 100 years!

Last year was a year that many of us may be pleased to leave behind, but it did bring with it some positives too, positives that we are keen to build on at Cycling UK, such as the huge increase in cycling and, in England, the Government's ambitions for cycling in its Gear Change strategy, which will be game-changing if delivered.

We'll be working hard in 2021 to support our entire community of cyclists, new and longstanding, and we'll be encouraging even more people to start cycling for the first time. This year also brings with it a fresh new face at the helm of our trustee board, as Janet Atherton OBE takes over as our new Chair. I'm really looking forward to working with Janet in Cycling UK's first all-female team at the top.

The elections in Scotland and Wales, and in many local authorities across England this May, will be an important opportunity for all of us to make sure that our elected representatives make a strong commitment to cycling infrastructure. Cycling UK's campaign team will be sharing resources and ideas to help all our members to support this.

The importance of getting local authorities' commitment to cycling has been thrown into sharp relief this winter by



the actions of some councils. Many of you will have seen coverage of Kensington and Chelsea's decision (now under review) to rip up the bike lane on Kensington High Street in the name of relieving traffic congestion, only to see the same space filled with congestion-exacerbating parked cars.

But Kensington and Chelsea wasn't the

only council to undermine their own progress on cycle infrastructure. In other parts of the country too, councillors are being pressured by a loud minority of people to dismantle the infrastructure that they invested in over the last year. Quite apart from this being an enormous waste of public money, it's only driven by a vocal minority. As surveys show, the overwhelming majority of people do support cycle lanes. Cycling UK has a proud history of standing up for cyclists, and we are in the process of investigating whether legal action can be brought against councils that have ripped out these schemes without due consideration.

While we might not be able to cycle together again in groups just yet, we can still get out on our bikes to enjoy some exercise and a change of scene. Plus, this is the time of year for planning our next cycling trips: at Cycling UK we're already sketching out our exciting activities for 2021's Bike Week and the Women's Festival of Cycling, and we can all start to dream about where we'll be riding when, finally, we are able to take trips again and venture further away from home. For me a trip anywhere in the UK sounds exotic right now, and I think we are all looking forward to returning to the social side of cycling once again – hopefully very soon.



Coronavirus

For updated cycling advice during the Covid-19 outbreak, visit: cyclinguk.org/coronavirus

“
Councillors are being pressured by a loud minority of people to dismantle infrastructure that they invested in last year
”

Engagement

WELCOME TO THE FOLD

Good news for our community cycle clubs (CCCs): Brompton Bike Hire has generously donated 59 of its Wheels for Heroes bicycles for use by 12 CCCs across the country, in cities such as Manchester, Liverpool, Norfolk and London. Many of the clubs have limited storage, so having a fleet of folders will make a huge difference in engaging local people who don't have their own cycles. cyclinguk.org/brompton-donation



Scotland

NEW SCOTTISH COMMITTEE

At the Cycling UK Scotland AGM, a new National Advisory Committee for Scotland was created to “advise, inform and be a critical friend” of Cycling UK’s Board. The committee is seeking passionate and skilled people to join it. To apply, visit cyclinguk.org/scotland-committee


7mph
Average speed by car in London and Edinburgh

Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament) and the Scottish Parliament have elections soon

Campaigns

MOVING UP THE GEARS

*There are elections in England, Scotland, and Wales this year. You can help us convince candidates to stand up for cycling, writes **Duncan Dollimore***

Elections present opportunities to ask those seeking your vote if they'll stand up for cycling, and to press candidates and parties for commitments towards active travel.

With that in mind, we've long had 6 May in our diaries: a bumper edition polling day featuring national elections in Scotland and Wales for the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, various local and mayoral elections in England, and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales.

It's in Scotland and Wales where we have a chance to influence the national agenda, and to find out which politicians will move up the gears to face the challenges ahead in 2021 and beyond, ensuring that active travel is designed into a green Covid-19 recovery.

Provided the pandemic doesn't cause the elections to be postponed, we'll be campaigning in both Scotland

and Wales in the run up to 6 May, and we'll need your support. While election asks and manifestos will differ, a core message across all of election campaigns this year is that cycling should be for everyone, not just for sport, for the fit,

or for men, and that action is needed from politicians everywhere to make that a reality.

Our elections web page [address below] has information on our manifestos and campaigns in Scotland and Wales, with links to an email action enabling you to sign up to support our demands. We'll be harnessing that support to show politicians and parties that active travel policies can be vote winning. Closer to 6 May, once candidates are announced, we'll have a separate campaign action allowing you to contact your candidates directly and ask for their support.

Investing more of the transport budget in active travel and making it a priority in all transport and neighbourhood decision making will be a key demand in Scotland. But money alone isn't enough. We need infrastructure that everyone can use, which means active travel networks designed on the basis of accessibility for all.

Likewise, in Wales we'll be asking candidates to commit to increased investment in active travel, but we also need to ensure that the aspirations of the Active Travel (Wales) Act are delivered, with networks of properly designed infrastructure, and that cycling is part of the election conversation in rural areas.

If you live in Scotland or Wales, go online to see how you can help us convince candidates to commit to cycling. Visit: cyclinguk.org/cycling-for-everyone.



Price of a Cycling UK Guzova (snood). Winter warmth and a face covering in one! shop.cyclinguk.org



For much of last year, Capheaton Tea Room ran a takeaway service instead

Cycling cafés

UP FOR THE CUP

Congratulations to the five winners of Cycling UK's 2020 Cyclist Café of the Year awards, which were announced just before Christmas by author, food writer, and keen cyclist Felicity Cloake.

We received more than 2,000 nominations for top coffee and cake stops around the country, which our panel of judges whittled down to one champion for each UK nation:

- **England:** Look mum no hands!, London EC1
 - **Northern Ireland:** Picnic Delicatessen, Killyleagh, Co Down
 - **Scotland:** Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop, Inverness
 - **Wales:** plan2ride Bicycle Café, Tongwynlais, Cardiff
- Additionally, a Lifetime Achievement

award went to Capheaton Tea Room in Capheaton, Northumberland, which first opened 25 years ago as a way to raise funds for the village hall and has gone on to build up what manager Ellie Patterson calls "a fantastic community of cyclists, walkers, locals and friends".

Hannah Duncan, Cycling UK's chief coffee and cake connoisseur, said: "While many of us have been able to continue cycling through the pandemic, the importance of a good café was really brought home to us when they were forced to close. The public voted in record numbers this year to show their support for the cafés that have battled through to carry on offering fuel, support and a friendly welcome."

For more details of the winning cafés, go to cyclinguk.org/cafe-2020.

Membership

MEMBER BENEFITS BOOST

Our member benefits page has been refreshed to make it easier to view our discounts.

The pandemic may have limited shopping opportunities but our partners are still open for business online. Don't forget that some partners give a proportion of sales back to the charity so your purchase can help to support Cycling UK too. If you're gearing up for the spring, looking to insure your bike, or planning a trip once restrictions are eased, visit cyclinguk.org/member-benefits.



Off-road

MISSING LINKS

Thousands of routes have already been added to Cycling UK's Missing Links map, revealing the paths and tracks in England that could form crucial traffic-free cycling connections. You can use our map tool to add the routes you would like to be able to ride on, and then get in touch with your local authority to suggest where future improvements could be made to enable more people to explore their local area by bike.

cyclinguk.org/missinglinks



Left: Alamy

Employers

GOLD FOR GREAT ORMOND ST

Children's hospital Great Ormond Street has struck gold not just in its patient care but also in how it looks after staff. The hospital has been recognised for its cycle friendly policies, which saw staff collectively riding more than 30,000 miles in 2020 – 5,000 more than it would take to ride around the world – as it received gold accreditation from Cycling UK's Cycle Friendly Employer Scheme. cyclinguk.org/GOSH



6,500
People a 3m wide
lane can move per
hour by bike. By car,
it's 700-1,100



The new interactive videos
will teach safer driving
practices around cyclists

Left: Robert Spanning

Wales & Northern Ireland

STORIED TRAILS & SAFER ROADS

Over the winter months Cycling UK has been busy working on setting up two new projects in Wales and Northern Ireland.

In Wales, thanks to a £10k grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, our Tales of the Trails project looks to celebrate the history and culture of the of Ynysybwl and Clydach Vale. We're collecting stories of these two valleys from current and former residents, which we will then link with the landscape they happened in through a network of trails.

Cycling UK's engagement officer Gwenda Owen said: "Through Tales of the Trails, Cycling UK is working with Ynysybwl Regeneration Partnership and the Cambrian Village Trust to preserve the stories of Wales's mine working past and to make them real by taking people

into the landscape where they happened."

cyclinguk.org/talesofthetrails

In Northern Ireland, we're focused not on history but on the future. We're producing a series of road safety videos to be shared by businesses with their employees. Funding of £10k from the Department for Infrastructure's Road Safety Grant Scheme means our Driving Forward Road Safety videos will be shown to drivers across Northern Ireland. The interactive videos will teach safe driving practices around cyclists, targeting close passing, car dooring, and understanding of cyclists' road positioning.

Josh Murray, Cycling UK engagement officer in Northern Ireland, said: "The videos will focus on key messages for drivers to help make Northern Ireland's roads safer for everyone."

cyclinguk.org/road-safety-NI



Volunteers

SOCIALLY-DISTANCED VOLUNTEERING

Regular volunteering with your group or club may not be possible right now but we still have ways you can support Cycling UK in its mission to get millions more people cycling by completing online actions. Join us as a micro-volunteer or as part of the Pumped Up Crew and receive regular tasks that you can complete from the comfort of your own home via our volunteer engagement tool, Assemble. To apply, go to volunteer.cyclinguk.org/opportunities and enter your postcode or town into the search box to see more about the roles.

Training

VOLUNTEERS: ASSEMBLE!

Cycling UK's volunteer tool Assemble is a great place to find resources and training for the roles our volunteers perform. There's Covid Awareness training (England) and Covid Officer training (Scotland); Safeguarding training for Welfare Officers; a Ride Leader Handbook for all registered ride leaders; Equality and Diversity Champion training; and more. Log into Assemble or contact the Volunteering Team at volunteering@cyclinguk.org.





1,000
Cycling UK groups and
affiliated clubs in the
UK. See [cyclinguk.org/
groups-listing](https://cyclinguk.org/groups-listing)



The group has planned a programme of events to celebrate its 100th birthday

Member groups

CTC COVENTRY IS 100

This year CTC Coventry is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a year-long programme of activities. Established in 1921, the group is still thriving today, with more than 50 regular riders.

Club chairman Bob Tinley said: "The club continues to evolve to meet the needs of newer members and balance this with the requirements of our established riders. As well as a programme of weekly short and longer rides, alongside running tours in the UK and abroad, we now have an energetic women's group and are seeing a growth in members using e-bikes."

Mick Jaynes, one of the new e-bike riders, said: "I have used my electric-assist bike to get

fit and lose weight. Cycling has really turned my life around. The sociable aspect of riding with CTC Coventry has been a vital part of making it enjoyable."

Bob added: "In conjunction with the Transport Museum, and ahead of Coventry's year as the UK's City of Culture, the club is offering introductory rides to interesting destinations in and around the city to prospective cyclists to show them the benefits of cycling and joining a club like ours. We're keen to attract more young people and families, especially as we've seen so many more people recently take up cycling."

Details of all 2021 events are on the club's website coventryctc.org.uk.

Christmas appeal

BREAK THE CYCLE

Thank you for supporting for our first ever Christmas appeal, which aims to break the cycle of social isolation through our Community Cycling Clubs, projects, and activities. You've offered us encouragement, support, bikes, and of course donations: we've raised over £8,000. While we may have some challenges with the latest lockdown, we can be ready to help more people as soon as restrictions lift. There's still time to donate, so please give what you can at cyclinguk.org/breakthecycle.



Community Cycling Club Walsall Arboretum really helped nurse Narinder Kaur

Groups & clubs

NEW GROWTH REVIEW

In 2021 Cycling UK will be focusing on expanding our groups. We believe they are at the heart of the organisation and we want to start investing in them more, including looking at better engagement, guidance and assistance to support their growth. If you are a group volunteer, we'll contact you for feedback on what you feel would help you and your group flourish. Email Head of Volunteering Alex Cuppleditch (alex.cuppleditch@cyclinguk.org) to contribute towards the review.

Members

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Cycling UK is delighted that two of our members have been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours. Golam Chowdhury of Cycling UK affiliated group British Red Cross Portsmouth was nominated "For services to Healthcare during the Covid-19 Response", while CTC Holidays tour leader Richard Dugdale was recognised "For services to the community in Clitheroe, Lancashire". cyclinguk.org/news/cycling-uk-members-recognised-new-year-honours