

this is cycling UK



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Active on travel

With the long-awaited arrival of summer, Cycling UK's programmes to get more people cycling are in full swing, as **Sarah Mitchell** explains

As we all know, summer is the reward for those of us who kept pedalling through the months of ice/freezing rain/fog/hailstones, and the time when those who are less weather hardened can be coaxed out onto their bikes. So it's the perfect time to be encouraging our friends, families and neighbours to join us on the road.

On this theme, I am really delighted to report that we have secured more funding for our Big Bike Revival project in England for the coming six months from Active Travel England (ATE). We'll be working with community partners to continue our work getting bikes roadworthy and making new and returning cyclists road confident. Over the summer we'll be working with ATE on a bid for some longer-term funding for this well-evidenced programme.

In Scotland we were surprised and saddened to hear from Transport Scotland that there was insufficient funding to cover all of our current behaviour change programmes there. This means that, regrettably, we will have to close our Shift and Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme programmes.

I'd like to pause and reflect here on all that these projects have achieved. Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme has provided more than 78,000 free repairs since launching in 2020, working with more than 360 bike shops and other repair providers. Since launching in 2021, more than 130 groups have taken part in Shift to support almost 18,000 people to choose cycling to get about. I'd like to thank all of our Scotland team for the fantastic difference they have made to communities and cycling in Scotland. We will be continuing to explore and develop new funding opportunities, with a firm commitment to maintain our delivery where funding allows across Scotland.

Also, more positively, we will be able to continue three really valuable projects in Scotland: Access Bikes, which aims to enable people on low incomes to experience cycling; Rural Connections, which supports active travel in rural and remote areas; and the Bothies, which provides communities with access to information, bikes, walking and cycling routes and support. We are delighted that these excellent projects can continue.



In England, meanwhile, the national e-cycle hire trial scheme, Making Cycling E-asier, is now operating in four cities. It's already seeing some fascinating and impressive take-up. Read on in this issue to find out more.

At the end of April we brought all of our Cycling UK team together for the first time in a year. This was a fantastic chance to meet many of our team for the first time and, with most of us working remotely, it was inspiring to be together in person. The organisation has grown and changed so much, even in the last 12 months, and it was brilliant to hear about all the work we're doing from passionate and committed team members from many different parts of the UK. We also had some intrepid cyclists who arrived in York by bike, including an incredibly speedy group who made it from Sheffield in time for lunch!

Finally, do join us from 5-11 June as we celebrate a century of Bike Week. The theme this year is to inspire more workplaces to cycle, so why not get involved and help us get more people riding to work? cyclinguk.org/bikeweek



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