

Celebrating people who are passionate about enabling others to cycle

It's been a very busy start to 2020 for the Volunteering Team at Cycling UK with the official launch of our new volunteering platform Assemble at the end of January.

Ahead of the launch, we've been updating the Document Hub on Assemble with refreshed and updated handbooks, policies and other resources; creating role profiles; adding new volunteering opportunities; and much more.

Also recently, we sent a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey to all our Member Group Secretaries and volunteer contacts belonging to our Community Cycle Clubs - more about the survey later on in Velocheer.

Gjoril, our project lead on Assemble, has just come back from attending a Cycling UK networking event in Birmingham, where she met many of our volunteers and also went cycling with members of Walsall Arboretum Community Cycle Club.

The Volunteering Team toast the launch of Assemble on 31 January 2020. L to R: Gjoril, Alex, Julie, Tom



In this issue

- **Assemble on the road**
- **Volunteer of the Month: Blaen Roberts**
- **What is microvolunteering?**
- **Volunteering Valentines**
- **Club Confidential**
- **Save the Date!**
- **Satisfaction Survey**
- **Sou'Westers celebrate**
- **Women's Cycling Awards**
- **Bike Week 2020**



Assemble is going on the road

Over the past few weeks, we've been telling many of you about our **new volunteering platform Assemble** and its fantastic functions, such as:

- being able to connect with other volunteers in the Directory
- find resources and support in the Document Hub
- read exclusive articles just for volunteers on the News page
- log and reward volunteering activities and hours

and much more!

Currently only available to certain volunteers from our Member Groups and Community Cycle Clubs, Assemble will soon be also rolled out to volunteers from our Affiliated Groups so they can enjoy its amazing features too.

So, if you are a Member Group volunteer or a Community Cycle Club volunteer contact, and a haven't logged in to Assemble yet, please do so now. Just follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to: <https://volunteer.cyclinguk.org/auth/login>
2. Click on **Forgot Password?**
3. Create new password
4. Sign in
5. Start exploring!

Soon, we will be heading out all over the UK with our Assemble workshop to show as many of our groups and volunteers as possible how to use the new tool. Dates and locations can be found on our website so if you look after volunteers for your group, keep an eye out for your invitation soon.

**Special offer for
Cycling UK members**

50% off YHA Membership



Volunteer
of the Month
Blaen Roberts
Liver Pedlāa
Pool

Blaen blazes a trail



Blaen receives his Certificate of Appreciation and Going the Extra Mile Award for Young Achiever 2019 from Cycling UK's Chris Alston

Cycling UK's Volunteer Awards 2019 saw a wide range of members from all over the UK nominated for their outstanding contributions to our mission of enabling millions more people to cycle. Blaen Roberts from Cycling UK affiliated group [Liver-Pedlāa-Pool](#) won the award for Young Achiever, which was recently presented to him by our Training Manager North, Chris Alston.

Blaen started the successful 'peaceful biking group' to try to give youngsters in the Liverpool area a positive alternative to drugs and knife crime, as he told BBC Radio Merseyside [in an interview](#) last week.

Read all about it

Assemble's News page has exclusive content for Cycling UK volunteers. Log on now to find out how West Surrey Cycling Club and CTC Central London took part in first aid courses put on by our Training Department.

What is microvolunteering?

Wednesday 15 April is national [Microvolunteering Day #MicroDay](#) but what even is microvolunteering? It was started by [Help From Home](#), a Cardiff-based association that encourages people to donate their time, whenever and wherever it suits them, in 'bite-sized chunks' that benefit worthy causes.

These chunks could range from a few seconds to half an hour or so and do not need any special skills to complete.

There are many ways that Cycling UK encourages our supporters to get involved in helping us to get millions more people cycling therefore we have now developed [a formal microvolunteering opportunity](#) so that anybody who is interested can sign up to receive small, regular tasks to complete in their own time.

For example, you might be [asked to record local rights of way](#) to help preserve them for future generations or take photos of cyclists in spring for our social media channels.



Spring ride by volunteer photographer Peter Cornish

Even though the tasks you do may not take a lot of time, they still make a valuable contribution to our work and are much appreciated.

Sally, one of our recent microvolunteers commented:

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be involved with Cycling UK. I am excited and look forward to playing my small part within the Cycling UK community."

We're looking forward to Sally joining our growing community of microvolunteers, too.



Love is in the air and on bikes

Last month, Cycling UK enjoyed [surprising random cyclists](#) throughout the UK on Valentine's Day with a set of bike lights to spread the love of cycling and remind people of what a fun and fabulous activity it is.

Here in the Volunteering Team, we decided that to make it even more romantic, we'd select two sets of couples who volunteer together to receive a set of lights.

Pictured above are Roy and Judy of the UK Fat Bike Club, who lead rides for the group in and around the Surrey Hills and have been married for 30 year. Below are Dan and Jan of North Hants CTC, who are also a longtime married couple, as well as very active ride leaders. Thanks to all of them for their contributions to cycling.



Dan and Jan Montgomerie with their lights. Photo by Kaye Hicks

Save the Date!

We love all our volunteers equally, of course, which is why we're inviting as many of them as possible to our Volunteer Celebration, which this year will take place on the weekend of the 3-4 October in the North West of England. More details of this exciting event and how to book your place will be coming soon.

Club Confidential: How to find useful resources for your role

As part of the roll-out of Assemble, we have completely updated and redesigned most of the important documents, forms and other resources used by our cycling groups and clubs.

You can now find all of these on the Document Hub on Assemble, separated into folders according to your role.

For example, if you are a Member Group Secretary, you'll see the folder called Important Resources for All Volunteers plus be able to access the Volunteer Co-Ordinator Toolkit and all the toolkits for all the other main volunteer roles.

However, if you are a Ride Leader, when you log on to Assemble, you will only see the folder called Important Resources for All Volunteers and the Ride Leader's Toolkit.

Take a look and see if you can find resources useful to YOUR role, such as the new Ride Leader Handbook or the new Cycling UK Groups Handbook, which replaces the Policy Handbook.

Most of these [resources can still also be found in Support for Cycling Groups](#).

Satisfaction survey

We want all our wonderful volunteers to enjoy their commitment to working alongside Cycling UK to enable millions more people to cycle.

We'd also like to diversify and expand our network of volunteers to be able to reach this ambitious target.

With these aims in mind, we recently sent a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey to all of our Member Group Secretaries plus selected volunteers from our Community Cycle Clubs.

The survey aims to find out more about their well-being and satisfaction with life in general, as well as their experience of volunteering within the charity. The closing date is the end of March so if you've been sent the survey, please complete it as soon as possible. We'd really appreciate it.

Sou'Westers celebrate a 40th anniversary

Voluntary
Group
of the Month
SW London
CTC



Many congratulations to the South West London CTC Midweek Wayfarers, who celebrated their recent birthday in March with - what else? - a ride and superb lunch. The group was formed as part of South West London CTC in 1980 and rides out every Wednesday from North Cheam in the London borough of Sutton. There are usually three separate groups catering for a wide range of pace and riding ability: 'A' rides, which are often a bit faster or hillier; the 'B' group of popular mid-range rides; and the 'C' group or 'Easy Riders', which are shorter and slower rides. The length of rides vary between 20 and 70 miles and riders can choose on the day the type of ride they want. The group also offers tours at home and internationally.

Photo by Peter Cornish, volunteer photographer: the Wayfarers celebrate their 40th anniversary

YOU are the stars!

Our fantastic [new volunteering video](#) was launched just after Christmas and is now featured on our website.

The video stars volunteers from some of our cycling projects and groups from all over the UK, and was made by our in-house videographer.

The aim of the video is to showcase the impact that our volunteers have, as well as the great sense of achievement they get from being volunteers too.

We hope it will encourage and inspire many more people to get involved. We also showcase [our volunteers' stories](#) in other ways, so if you'd like to share yours, [please get in touch](#).

Women's Cycling Awards

You can help make stars of some of our incredible female cycling volunteers, too. The [Women's Cycling Awards](#) celebrate female talent and achievements from across the cycling world, including in the [Volunteer of the Year category](#). Nominees include Cycling UK volunteers Sajida Somani, Joy Anibaba, Sarah Javid and Sylvia Briercliffe. Voting closes on Friday 13 March.



You can also nominate outstanding women who deserve some recognition when this year's 100 Women in Cycling nominations are launched on Sunday 8 March, International Women's Day. See [tomorrow's CycleClips](#) for more details.

Getting in gear for a BIG summer of cycling

Although the weather might still seem a bit unpleasant for cycling for many of us, summer is really not that far away now (yay!) and, here at Cycling UK, plans are well underway to make it the best ever - but we can't do it alone. Once again, we are hosting [Bike Week](#), which takes place between 6 to 14 June and, as part of it, on Saturday 13 June, we are organising the world's BIGGEST Bike Ride! We'd love all our groups to register a ride and promote it locally - many people rely on amazing groups like yours for inspiration, knowledge and encouragement so you are best-placed to get more people cycling this summer, possibly changing their lives forever.

[Bike Week](#) also gives you the perfect platform to showcase your group and its activities, attracting new cyclists young and old, while the [World's BIGGEST Bike Ride](#) is a fun opportunity to join thousands of other riders throughout the country, all cycling together at the same time, no matter how far, fast or slowly they go. More details of how you can register for these awesome opportunities will be available soon so keep an eye on the [Bike Week website](#), CycleClips and our other comms channels.

Don't forget to follow us!

