

QUICK RELEASES

***This month:** CTC's Big Bike Revival, cycling cities, the CTC Volunteer of the Year Awards, and a forthcoming members' conference*



● (Main) Bike painting for fun at the BBR
(Inset) Christine Cope

A CYCLING REVIVAL

May and June saw thousands back on their bikes during CTC's Big Bike Revival and Bike Week. CTC's **David Murray** reports

WE DID IT! The Big Bike Revival involved 1,600 events, 98 Bike Recycling Centres, and 80 Halfords stores. How many tens of thousands of people did we meet, greet and treat to bike fixing sessions, group rides and maintenance top tips? We're still totting those up as we go to press.

Feedback so far has been excellent – and not just from our pilot project, which scooped the 'best not for profit campaign' award from the Chartered Institute of Marketing, but from the best judges of all: the participants. It's their inspiring stories that make us know for certain we made the most

of this chance to rekindle a love of cycling.

Take Christine Cope, a 51-year-old grandmother and recovering stroke victim, whose 35-year-old bike was repaired thanks to CC Cycles in Crewe. A cyclist in her youth, the stroke's side effects rendered the idea of riding a bike again almost unthinkable four years on from her health scare. 'I went from being a confident, lively woman to someone who was timid and reclusive,' she told us.

Christine's bicycle was relegated to the shed where it gathered dust for years – until she happened upon a Big Bike Revival

event in her home town. The sight of crowds getting their bikes repaired by mechanics at CC Cycles' 'pop-up shop' got Christine reminiscing about cycling.

Astonished that her bike could be restored so cheaply and quickly, Christine is using it to visit her grandchildren, aged eight, seven and three. 'Josh and the team at CC Cycles did such an incredible job and I am so grateful for the work they put into my bike,' she said. 'I think The Big Bike Revival is a fantastic idea. It has given a new lease of life to not only my old bike but to me, and the feeling of freedom and independence that I am now enjoying when riding it is absolutely wonderful. My grandkids love seeing grandma on her bike, and I love knowing I can hop on it whenever I want to go and see them or pop to the shops.'



BIKE WEEK – A BIG DRAW

After getting tens of thousands of bikes fixed, the next goal was to encourage half a million people to cycle to work as part of Bike Week. We started the proceedings at the Dutch Embassy, accompanied by the Dutch Ambassador, Laetitia van den Assum, and Minister for Cycling Robert Goodwill MP. Taking a pedal-based pootle to Parliament, accompanied by MPs and Peers supportive of cycling, was a fitting start to our 'ride to work' themed events. Let's not forget that there are 114 MPs who voted bike with CTC ahead of the general election, so we should expect at least that number to be cycling to and from their work every day.

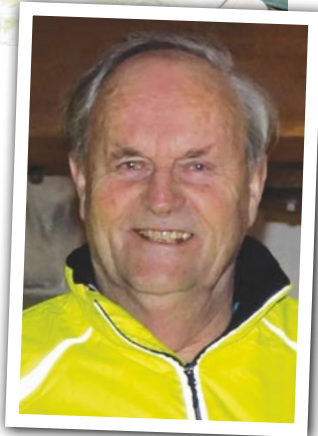
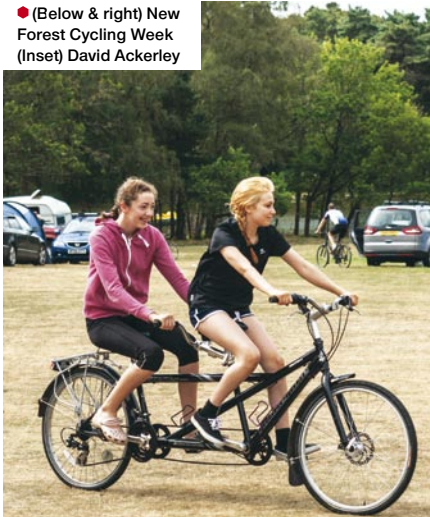
Our latest YouGov survey told us that 47% of the working population (that's over 14.5 million people) live within the cycle-able distance of five miles or less from their workplace. So we created a promotional video poking fun at other forms of transport and illustrating just how convenient cycling really is – see bit.ly/bikeweek15video. We also asked our friend and illustrator Dave Walker to turn his hand to Bike Week; his drawing is at bit.ly/ctcdavewalker.

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

● (Below & right) New Forest Cycling Week (Inset) David Ackerley



CTC VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

CTC members and groups across the country received recognition for their invaluable efforts in 2014. **Dan Joyce** summarises the results

DAVID ACKERLEY of Chester & North Wales CTC was named National Volunteer of the Year at a meeting before the CTC AGM in London on 18 July. He was unable to attend to collect the Moss Medallion, so it was presented to him locally by CTC Councillor Welna Bowden.

David, who was the regional winner for the North West, has played key roles for Chester & North Wales (C&NW) CTC for many years. He edited *The Link*, the Member Group's magazine, and researched and co-authored *The Chain*, a history of C&NW CTC. He is also secretary of the C&NW awards committee. He organised the Bert Bailey Veterans' 100 event in July and ensured the 75th anniversary of C&NW CTC was celebrated in style.

Runner-up as Volunteer of the Year and winner for the South East Region was Annette Covey. Annette is part of the Surrey Wheels For All team, helping people with disabilities ride cycles. She does a lot of work promoting the sessions too. When the group hit problems gaining access to a local running track for sessions, Annette forced local politicians to reconsider.

Third placed Volunteer of the Year and winner for Wales was Doreen Lindsey, another C&NW member. She revived the regular Thursday rides of the Eryri Group and led rides at the Welsh Festival of

Cycling. Doreen often travels 70 miles to support group events.

The New Forest Cycling Week Member Group was named Volunteer Group of the Year. This traditional, family-oriented camping rally celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014, with rides every day and events for children.

Ayrshire CTC, which offers a wide range of rides throughout the year, including ladies' rides and 'Thursday 10s' for beginners, was runner-up as Volunteer Group of the Year. The newly established Redditch and Bromsgrove CTC was third.

The Gordon Selway Award for the Local Cycle Campaigner of the Year went to Roy Watson of the West Midlands region. Roy mapped current and potential routes on Birmingham's canal network, then established the Birmingham Greenways website to encourage other cyclists to explore his routes. More than £2million is now being invested in resurfacing the area's canal towpaths and opening up greenway connections.

Sam Murphy was National Office Volunteer of the Year. Meanwhile, CTC Certificates of Merit were awarded to Stephen Harrison (South East) and Dr Viv McKay (South East). Jean Lakin (East Midlands) and Bob Jeffries (South West) were highly commended.

For more details about the awards, visit bit.ly/ctcvolunteerofyear

YOUR HELP COUNTS

130 VOLUNTEERS

will deliver a Dr Bike service at six sites across during the RideLondon FreeCycle event on 1 August...



...AND THEY'LL BE AIMING TO SERVICE

3000 BIKES FOR EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Over 100

CTC volunteers supported Eroica Britannia in Bakewell and on the three Peak District rides



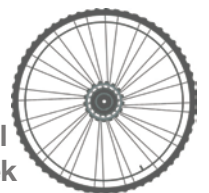
20 CTC MEMBERS WITH BIKE MECHANIC QUALIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING THE NSPCC TOUR OF ENGLAND RIDERS

Over 65 volunteers ARE SUPPORTING THE COUNTRYWIDE GREAT TOUR AS RIDE LEADERS



873 EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN BIKE WEEK, THANKS TO AROUND 3,000 VOLUNTEERS

Hundreds of volunteers support CTC rides on a local level each week



● Mass cycle ride in Nantes, France, to coincide with VeloCity



CYCLING CITIES

This June, VeloCity took place in Nantes, France, while Newcastle upon Tyne hosted Cycle City Active City. CTC's **Sam Jones** was at both

THE TWO CAMPAIGNS conferences were separated by three weeks, 700-odd miles, the Channel, and a difference in tone. VeloCity was celebratory, trumpeting cycling's successes in everywhere from Amsterdam and Copenhagen to Taipei in Taiwan and Bogota in Colombia. Cycle City Active City was more pragmatic.

VeloCity focused on what our cities could be like. Only a hardened cynic would have left Nantes and failed to be inspired. Copenhagen's Mayor of Technical and Environmental Affairs, Morten Kabell, shocked many when he stated 'Danes love cars too'. His explanation that cycling's number one city has its difficulties gives hope for car-centric countries such as the UK.

A sense of optimism oozed from town planners and decision makers. In the UK, politicians talk of the lack of funds for cycling due to the economy, but this is an excuse that other parts of the world are not using. Brazil, Sweden, France, Taiwan, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, and many more countries have invested in cycling and reaped the economic rewards.

Cycle City Active City started off with optimism and encouraging words from

Newcastle's Leader of the Council, Nick Forbes. Cycling Minister Robert Goodwill MP followed with the announcement that Government had finally begun the process of making the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy a reality.

The scale of the challenges facing the UK were not downplayed. London may enjoy cycling super highways, but other areas struggle with dangerous road designs and facilities not fit for purpose. The picture is not all bleak. While we may be dazzled by the Netherlands' suspended bike roundabout, the Hovenring, the story of Newark St in Leicester is still satisfying. There, the council leader defied planners and blocked off a traffic lane with bollards, proving the city would not descend into gridlock, and then built a cycle lane that rejuvenated the street.

The UK's eight cycle cities, meanwhile, are each demonstrating what can be done with consistent long-term funding. They build a very strong case for annual funding of at least £10 per head. Coupled with decent national design standards to ensure funding is well spent, this would definitely put the UK on the right track.

“VeloCity focused on what our cities could be like... At Cycle City Active City, the challenges facing the UK were not downplayed”

CYCLE SHORTS

● YORK RALLY'S RETURN

Back as an independent event, the York Rally took place on its traditional home of the Knavesmire on 20-21 June. Visitor numbers were healthy, and a provisional date of 25-26 June has been set for 2016. As well as organised rides from the site, there was a range of displays, from veteran cycles to the British Human Power Club's recumbents. Hewitt Cycles, JD Tandems, Cyclecentric, Spa Cycles, ICE recumbents, and BikeFix were among the traders. National Series grasstrack racing returned to the arena, while the marquee again hosted the auction and the saddlebag sale. For more information, see yorkrally.org



Photo: Mike Handley

● MBE FOR ROGER GEFFEN

CTC Campaigns and Policy Director Roger Geffen was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's 2015 Birthday Honours List, for his services to cycling. 'I regard this as an award for the collective efforts made by everyone involved in cycle campaigning, both in CTC and our partner organisations,' Roger said. 'If I'm honest, the accolade I'd most love would be a Government commitment to invest at least £10 per head annually on cycling – rising progressively to £20 per head – together with the design standards to ensure this money is well spent! So, humbled as I am to receive this honour, I promise it won't in any way weaken my resolve to continue campaigning for those outcomes!'

● MEMBER GROUP MEETINGS

There will be a formation meeting for the proposed St Helens and Warrington CTC at 6.30pm on 23 September at the Pied Bull Hotel, High St, Newton le Willows, Merseyside WA12 9SH.

The Heart of England group has a Special General Meeting to dissolve the Member Group at 7.30pm on 7 September at The Red Lion public house, 1672 High Street, Knowle, Solihull B93 0LY.



Photo: stevekeiratsu (Flickr Creative Commons)

CONFERENCE CALLING

In October, a members' conference and a campaigners' conference will explore how CTC and cycling can benefit from the current bike boom. **David Murray** explains

CYCLE SPORT seems to have won over many hearts in recent years, with our top cyclists becoming household names. Political support for cycling as day-to-day travel has also grown – in theory. Yet funding for cycling remains patchy and uncertain, cycle use is still pitifully low by comparison with many of our European neighbours, and growth in cycle use is slow.

So what could this mean for CTC, our members and supporters? How could we benefit from this surge in public support for cycling? Our members' conference on 10 October at the University of Warwick, and a more in-depth campaigners' conference on 24 October, are designed to answer these questions and more.

We will set out what CTC is doing to contribute to and benefit from this cycling boom – and what more we could do with our members' and supporters' backing. For instance, in Bike Week 2015, we helped deliver over 800 cycle-to-work themed events. And our Big Bike Revival project encouraged tens of thousands to rekindle their love of cycling, while enlisting the help of bike recycling centres across England.

Speaking at the Cycle City Active City Conference in Newcastle at the end of June, Cycling and Walking Minister Robert Goodwill MP announced that he had instructed Department of Transport officials to bring into effect the legal provisions in the

Infrastructure Act requiring the Government to adopt a Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) – see p12. But we still don't know how long the Government will take to develop this strategy or how much money it will contain. Nor are there any national cycle-friendly design standards in place to ensure the money is well spent – at least, not for most of England, Scotland or Northern Ireland. London now has some excellent design standards, as does Wales (although funding in Wales remains a problem).

CTC is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the cycling boom. With more than 700 local cycling groups, the establishment of a network of over 40 inclusive cycling centres, hundreds of campaigning volunteers, and about 100 bike recycling centres, CTC has established and embedded itself in the fabric of local communities' cycling activities and action for cycling.

Join us at the University of Warwick on 10 October to learn more about our plans for CTC as we help to shape the future success of cycling in the UK. To sign up, visit ctc.org.uk/member-conference-registration. Or for the campaigners' conference in Liverpool on 24 October, visit ctc.org.uk/local-cycle-campaigning. This is organised jointly with Cyclenation (the UK federation of local cycle campaign groups) and hosted by the Merseyside Cycling Campaign.

“Political support for cycling as day-to-day travel has grown. Yet funding remains patchy and uncertain and cycle use is still low”

CYCLE SHORTS

• CYCLE-RAIL AWARDS

The ATOC National Cycle Rail Awards 2015 are open for nominations. The awards are given for people, stations, and companies who encourage integrated cycle-rail travel. Categories include Station of the Year, Operator of the Year, Innovation, Cycle Security, and Staff Member of the Year. For the full list of awards, or to make a nomination, visit cycle-rail.co.uk. Nominations close on 4 September.



Photo: Phil Dorniey

• SHEFFIELD CYCLE SHOW

The inaugural Sheffield Cycle Show was held on 25 May at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield. Sheffield District CTC had a busy stand, giving visitors details of rides, events, and member benefits, and showing a 20-minute film of the SD CTC weekend to Belgium in 2011. The Sheffield Cycle Show will be held again in 2016. For more details, visit sheffieldcycleshow.co.uk.

• CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Eric Watson was awarded a CTC Certificate of Merit on Sunday 21 June in recognition of all his work for the local group in Bournemouth and Wessex over many decades. Eric had been in hospital for major surgery and this was his first outing when he was collected and driven out to the CTC Wessex Cycling picnic at Damerham, Dorset.

• MILDENHALL BOOKINGS OPEN

Bookings for the camping pitches at this year's Mildenhall Cycling Rally are now open. The cycling festival will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend (Saturday 29 – Monday 31 August 2015) at the Sheldrick Way site of Mildenhall College, whose playing fields become a temporary campsite for nearly 400 caravan and camping pitches. 'The campsite fills very quickly, so we would encourage anyone wanting to stay on the rally site, to book early to avoid any disappointment,' said Mark Burchett, Chairman of the organising club. For more information, or to download a booking form, visit mildenhallrally.org.uk