

QUICK RELEASES

***This month:** Securing cycling commitments from Scottish and Welsh election candidates. Planning your 2016 cycling calendar with CTC.*

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



● Pedal on Parliament in Edinburgh. This year's will be timely due to MSP elections

© Paul Morris (Flickr Creative Commons)

seek pledges from potential MSPs in the following three areas:

- **Investment:** Provide sustained, long-term investment in both cycling and walking, reaching 10% of the transport budget.
- **Infrastructure:** Build and maintain dedicated cycling infrastructure, enabling people aged 8-80 to cycle.
- **Safety:** Promote and deliver safer roads for both walking and cycling.

If you're a CTC member based in Scotland, and want to be involved, there is a training event on 5 March in Glasgow. Make sure you check out the website for updates and for information on your local area. Visit walkcyclevote.scot

WALES

Similarly, over the coming months we will be looking to ramp up our activities for the Welsh Assembly elections. Wales already enjoys some of the most progressive cycling legislation in the UK in the form of the Active Travel Wales Act. The Act seeks to map out current infrastructure and pin down ambitions for future networks. It also, much to the envy of cycle campaigners throughout the UK, sets out national design standards.

With these two important areas covered, CTC aims to press candidates for support in one clear area the Act is let down in: funding. Along with other campaign organisations in Wales, we also want to secure commitment of at least £10 per head per person.

Additionally, following the popularity of our Trails for Wales campaign in September 2015, we want to press home the advantage there. We will continue supporting the current Welsh Government's suggested plans to adopt Scottish-style presumed access laws. Currently, cyclists in Wales



VOTE FOR CYCLING



This year sees elections for the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, and for Police and Crime Commissioners. **Sam Jones** reports

NOT ENOUGH OF a voting fix after last year's general election? Don't despair: 2016 offers plenty more opportunities to make your mark, and CTC is set to make cycling part of the political discussion once again.

In 2016, it is the chance for the devolved administrations to shake up their respective houses, throw out the old and welcome in the new. CTC already has plans for both Scotland and Wales to this effect and will be calling on members and fellow supporters of cycling to get involved closer to the time.

SCOTLAND

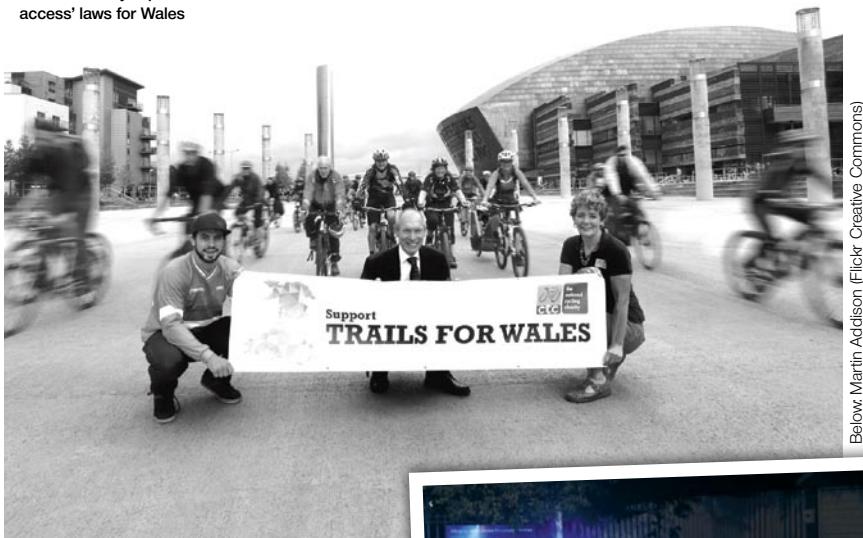
In Scotland, CTC has already seized the initiative. Here, we are providing the financial

support behind the collaborative campaign 'We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote', which has the hashtag #walkcyclevote. This umbrella campaign, coordinated by CTC's Head of Development Scotland, Suzanne Forup, and Sally Hinchcliffe from Pedal on Parliament, has wide support from 21 of Scotland's cycling and walking campaign groups.

'We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote' raised the cycling agenda during the Scottish party conference season last October, and will

“We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote will seek pledges from potential MSPs in three areas: investment, infrastructure, and safety”

● CTC will continue to press for Scottish-style 'presumed access' laws for Wales



Below: Martin Addison (Flickr Creative Commons)

» have access to just 21% of the Rights of Way network. Transform Scotland estimates that off-road and leisure cycle tourism contribute between £236.2m and £358m per year to the Scottish economy. Trails for Wales is an opportunity for Wales to tap into this source of revenue, as well as to encourage further cycling.

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS

It's not just your usual elected officials who will be fighting for seats, but also Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The PCCs were introduced to English and Welsh policing in 2012 following elections in November that year. Though largely ignored in their initial election, with only 15% of the population turning out to vote in the current incumbents, it seems there is cross-party consensus that they are here to stay.

The PCCs' role is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. In 2012, they collectively held responsibility for a combined police force area budget of £8bn. Under the terms of their role, PCCs must, among other duties, set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan. They must also make sure local priorities are 'joined-up'.

CTC will seek assurances from candidates that they will commit to reversing the dramatic decline of roads policing in their areas. Overall, roads policing dropped by 37% between 2003-2014 and has not recovered. In



contrast, while facing cuts, total police numbers only fell by 3.5%. CTC believes visible roads policing is one of the best deterrents for illegal driving, and our call for its increase is part of our ongoing Road Justice campaign. Using the opportunity of this election, we will ask voters to help us reverse this trend, and make safer roads and traffic conditions a priority for all PCCs.

OTHER ELECTIONS

Across England there will also be a number of local and mayoral elections. While these might not seem as important for cycling as the general election, in reality they can have a bigger impact. Local authorities have the power to shape and change the cycling environment that will immediately affect you, and therefore it's important that the cycling voice is heard. Make sure you check out what your local campaign groups have planned for the run-up to May. You can find campaign groups online: ctc.org.uk/local-groups.

There's the potential for great change this May, and with your help it could be for the benefit of cycling.

“Ahead of the Welsh elections, CTC aims to press candidates for support in one clear area the Act is let down in: funding”

CYCLE SHORTS

● **CTC AGM 2016**

The CTC AGM will take place on Saturday 7 May, 2016 at the Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby DE1 2SQ at 1.30pm. More details will be published in the next issue of Cycle. The deadline for motions is 1 February 2016. See last issue or call CTC National Office for details on submitting motions.

● **MICHAEL MASON APPEAL**

Many of you responded generously to the appeal for donations in the last issue of Cycle. The Cyclists' Defence Fund (CDF) is hugely grateful to everyone who contributed to support the prosecution of a driver involved in the crash that killed 70-year-old Michael Mason in February 2014. The driver failed to explain why she hit Mick, and the police did not charge her. The only way that a jury will get the chance to determine what caused Mick's death is through a private prosecution, which CDF has agreed to carry out. Over £57,000 has already been raised but another £18,000 is needed to take the case to trial. To find out more about the case and to donate online, visit justgiving.com/justiceformichael. To donate by post, please send a cheque to 'Cyclists' Defence Fund' to Justice for Mick, c/o CTC, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim Gift Aid on your donation. You'll need to send a Gift Aid declaration, which you can download from cyclistsdefencefund.org.uk/donate-cdf

● **BIG BIKE REVIVAL WINNER**

Thanks to CTC's Big Bike Revival, Hove's Paul Bessant won his dream bicycle and was treated to a tour of Raleigh's HQ in Nottingham. Paul and his partner Hermione were given a 'cycle makeover' after he won first prize in our BBR draw. The couple were presented with Raleigh bikes of their choice, plus equipment. Paul struck lucky after filling in a survey as part of CTC's Big Bike Revival.





Left: Selim Korycki. Below: Robin Tucker

NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTIONS

CTC has a busy schedule of cycling events and activities for 2016. **Julie Rand** suggests some you might try

THE START OF another year is the perfect opportunity to try something new or to compile (and carry out) a bucket-list of things you'd really like to do at least once in your life. With rides and events all over the country, CTC has lots of opportunities for you to explore new areas, discover different routes, or try another style of cycling altogether.

There's the CTC Tourist Competition, in which you gain points for taking part in road rides of different lengths, plus events such as map-reading, treasure hunts, hill climbs, off-road rides and more all over the country. And there's a wide variety of festivals, rallies, and weekly local rides. Last year, CTC Member Groups put on around 14,000 rides in total, both on and off-road, of which around 250 were sportives. In total, there were more than 160,000 rides by individual participants.

This year sees the return of the Triennial Veterans' Rides (Tri-Vets), last held in 2013. These are century rides – 100km or 100 miles – for anybody aged over 50 to try to complete within a 12-hour time limit. Groups around the country will be holding Tri-Vets events in June and July.

Another event that could see you exploring pastures new is the long-running British Cycle Quest. Earn medals and trophies for finding the answers to clues by riding your bike to various checkpoints around the UK. Nobody has claimed the engraved trophy for completing the full set of 402 questions since 2012.

If you don't want to travel too far, why not just complete the set of six questions for your own county? The question book is free to download, and a wallchart is available to buy for a small fee. Details at ctc.org.uk/british-cycle-quest.

Alternatively, make 2016 the year you finally get round to completing a Land's End to John o' Groats ride. CTC's LEJOG pack is full of useful advice and has route and accommodation listings as well. It's free to CTC members.

Of course, there will be all the usual favourites taking place this year, including Bike Week in June, the Welsh Festival of Cycling and the CTC New Forest Cycling Week in July, the Birthday Rides at Woodbridge in Suffolk in August, and many more. If you're itching to go even further afield, CTC Cycling Holidays has a full programme of trips.

For more information about all the activities taking place this year, visit the website ctc.org.uk or search our UK Cycling Events list at ctc.org.uk/uk-cycling-events.



● Oxfordshire CTC members at the start of their 2013 Tri-Vets event

CTC INCIDENT LINE NUMBERS

CTC solicitors Slater + Gordon Lawyers work for all CTC members by providing advice and pursuing claims for damages incurred in incidents. Here are some of the headline figures from their work.

(If you have an incident, call 0844 736 8452.)

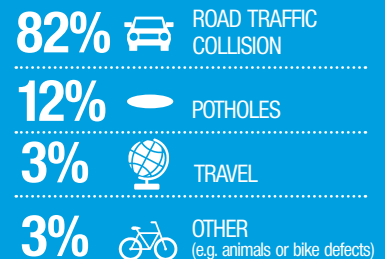


100% of damages retained by members

NO DEDUCTION FOR LEGAL COSTS, UNLIKE MOST LAWYERS WHO TAKE UP TO 25% TOWARDS LEGAL FEES



TYPES OF CLAIMS:



Approximately **375 members** advised each year, with **5,250** helped in total since 2002

