

News, views, & events

CYCLE SHORTS

THIS MONTH CYCLING UK'S MEMBERS' CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER, MEETING ROYALTY ON THE MALL AT THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, AND AN EVENTFUL SUMMER



Paul Tuohy addresses last year's successful conference in Warwick

Members' conference

CYCLING UK'S GET TOGETHER

Meet members, supporters and staff this autumn for talks, seminars and award presentations. **David Murray** reports



DAVID MURRAY
Head of Communications & Campaigns

JOIN US IN Manchester on 8 October for Cycling UK's second ever members' conference, where we'll celebrate our members' and volunteers' colossal efforts to Get Britain Cycling over the last year. There will be seminars geared towards Member Groups, inclusive cycling, and campaigning, as well as presentations for our award-winning members. Guest speakers at the Get Together will be bike designer Isla Rowntree, world cycle tourers Stephen Fabes and Julian Sayerer, and transport campaigner Caroline Russell.

MEMBER GROUPS

Our Member Groups are the heart of Cycling UK, running well over 13,000 rides in the past 12 months. Rides have ranged from weekly club runs, on and off-road, to

challenge rides, family-friendly excursions, and women-only rides. Such events are welcoming and supporting, since Cycling UK members ride with each other rather than against each other. The Get Together sessions on the role of Member Groups will examine what makes successful groups thrive and grow.

INCLUSIVE CYCLING

Our Cycling Development work has helped over 95,000 people overcome personal barriers to cycling. These new cyclists might have been constrained by physical or mental health issues, or by the lack of a bike or the wherewithal to buy a new one. We will showcase the ongoing successes of our Big Bike Revival (see p52). We will also draw inspiration from our remarkable beneficiaries and those championing community cycling.

CAMPAIGNING FOR CYCLING

Cycling UK has fought for cycling and cyclists for over 138 years. One of this year's key campaigns is Space for Cycling, which is now pressing for funding and political commitment to make the warm words of the new Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy a reality. At the Get Together, we will share successful national and local campaign strategies. We will also expand on our plans to lobby for greater access for off-road cycling, which our Trails for Wales campaign set in motion.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nominations are open now for Cycling UK's Volunteer Awards 2015-2016, with the winners receiving their awards at the Get Together. The categories this year (covering activities across 2015 and 2016) are: Best Volunteer Achievement; Best Campaign; Best Group Achievement or Cycling Event; Best Community Project; and Young Achiever of the Year. We will also be handing out our Tourist Competition awards.

We want to hear from you. You can nominate your own club or Member Group, or any individual who deserves recognition. Download a nomination form from cyclinguk.org/cycling-uk-volunteer-year-awards-2016. You can read about previous years' winners there. To request a paper nominations form, call 01483 238300.

For more details about the Get Together, which is free to attend, visit cyclinguk.org/Cycling-UK-Annual-Members-Get-Together.

Stay in touch

CYCLECLIPS: free weekly email newsletter – email your membership number to membership@cyclinguk.org
CAMPAIGN NEWS: monthly campaigns bulletin. Sign up at cyclinguk.org/subscribe-to-cycle-campaign-news



TONY UPFOLD
Communications &
Media Officer

Cycling events

ROYAL SOCIETY

Members were invited to The Mall for the Queen's 90th birthday, writes **Tony Upfold**

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CYCLIST Archie Forse had the thrill of his life when he met Princes William and Harry as a guest of Cycling UK at the Patron's Lunch to celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday. Archie and his mum Shona were among the dozen people who sat at Cycling UK's table on Sunday 12 June as The Mall hosted its largest-ever street party to mark Queen Elizabeth II's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations.

Shona is a member of Ash Velo Community Cycle Club, which was set up in January this year, and leads the family rides that keen cyclist Archie regularly attends. Archie said: 'It was awesome to meet Prince William and Prince Harry and have my photograph taken with them. They were really nice.'

Mum Shona, a Warrant Officer in the British Army, said: 'It was an absolutely fabulous day. We went up to London on the train and it was pouring with rain. But once we got on to The Mall and joined nearly 10,000 other guests for the Patron's Lunch, we hardly noticed the weather because the atmosphere was so fantastic. Even though we were all soaked through, everyone was friendly, happy and smiling – and the rain stopped after a while anyway. For Archie to meet the Princes, and to see

“Archie's meeting with Prince Harry was televised on Sky News”



Roy Spilsbury, who helped found CTC Cymru, with wife Joyce



Archie Forse, one of 10,000 guests, meets Prince William

The Queen and Prince Philip slowly drive by at such close quarters, smiling and waving, was amazing. We felt really quite special.'

Archie's meeting with Prince Harry was even televised on Sky News on Sunday evening. Shona and Archie became involved with Ash Velo Community Cycle Club after it was set up five months ago by Susan Keywood, Cycling UK's Cycling Development Officer for Surrey and Hampshire.

At the other end of the age scale from Archie was 81-year-old Roy Spilsbury. Among his many accomplishments as a lifelong cyclist, Roy played a major role in the founding of CTC Cymru and has served as its Secretary and Vice-Chairman. He has also given long service as a Cycling UK Right to Ride representative, and co-founded the Cycling North Wales website, which he has developed into a unique and popular site with nearly a quarter of a million page impressions a year. Displaying a link with Cycling UK's illustrious history – the Queen's grandfather, King George V, became CTC's first Royal Patron in 1910 – Roy had a CTC centenary musette around his shoulder, with a Winged Wheel just visible.

Quick releases

POLL OF THE WHOLE CLUB

The poll of members, called by a petition by ex-Councillor Philip Benstead to endorse or overturn the decision of the Council to adopt the trading name of Cycling UK, closed on 8 July. The result was 6,533 to endorse the decision and 3,694 to overturn it. David Cox, Chair of Council, said: 'Thank you to all who took the time to vote. The Cyclists' Touring Club continues to be the legal name of the charity but with Cycling UK as our new trading name to reach the broadest audience possible. We are extremely proud of the heritage and achievements of the Cyclists' Touring Club over the last 138 years. Many of our local Member Groups will continue to run their activities under the name Cyclists' Touring Club, as that best describes what they do. For many of our other initiatives in campaigns, off-road and community cycling projects, the name Cycling UK is less prescriptive. But, together as cyclists, we are driven by the passion and enthusiasm of all our members and supporters, who make Cycling UK welcoming to all.'

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SPACE FOR CYCLING

Cycling UK's national Space for Cycling campaign is being revived to create a compelling and exciting case for the public, as well as campaigners, to get involved. Among the many tasks is to create Tube-map style cycle networks and visualisations. If you have the graphic design skills to help, please email Cycling UK's Space for Cycling Campaigns Officer, Tom Guha, on tom.guha@cyclingsuk.org.

STAND UP FOR CYCLING

Cycling UK is recruiting trustees to sit on its Board. You could help us capitalise on our new brand identity and fulfil our mission: championing cycling for everyone. We have modernised our governance to create a smaller, more skilled Board. As well as a passion for cycling, you must be able to offer a specialist skill we need. We are also keen to have a diverse and inclusive Board. Our application pack explains what we are looking for: visit bit.ly/cyclingsuk-trustee-elections or call Sue Cherry on **01483 238302**.





MATT MALLINDER
Membership Director



(Clockwise from above) Bike Week's theme was cycle to work and was backed by Cyclescheme; Stevenage CTC's calendar was as busy as ever; Bristol's Get Gorgeous programme was for beginners

Cycling events

SUMMER'S SILVER LININGS

It's been a soggy summer but Cycling UK's events have been well attended, writes **Matt Mallinder**



JUNE'S RECORD rainfall didn't deter record numbers of riders from taking part in Cycling UK events. National Bike Week, Tri-Vets rides across the country, local challenges such as Bristol's Get Gorgeous programme, and new events in Ayrshire were all busy with hardy cyclists who wouldn't let the worst of British weather (high winds, flash flooding...) get the better of them.

It was with damp enthusiasm that I found myself embracing National Bike Week, which was co-ordinated by Cycling UK, this June. The theme was Cycle to Work and so I dutifully rode the 20 miles every day – rarely staying dry but easily revived at work by a shower and a cuppa. I took the opportunity to enjoy the commute by trying different routes and mixing road riding with an off-road route. Meandering alongside the river, I saw many other cyclists, which made me confident that plenty more would shrug off the weather and join our local groups throughout the country.

Groups across the UK put on over 750 rides during Bike Week, with 375,000 people taking part in activities ranging from naked bike rides (not for me!) to bike breakfasts and after-work pub rides (yes, please!). Cycling UK also hosted a ride for 25 MPs across London with pupils from St Marylebone SEN School, who showed off their cycle training to them. They will be tomorrow's cycle commuters.

Our every-three-years 'Tri-Vets' series of 100-mile and

100km events for the over-50s dates back to the 1920s. Groups welcomed more than 700 riders to 20 events across the UK, from the south coast of England to Ayrshire in Scotland, where the Tri-Vets ride was combined with the inaugural Ayrshire Cycling Festival. I've already pencilled in my Tri-Vets debut in 2025 but you can read about Julie Rand's first experience with the South West London event on page 82. Special mention must go to the Streetbikes group from Huddersfield who had over 100 entrants, 11 of whom were blind.

RIDING INTO AUTUMN

Bristol's Get Gorgeous ride programme also gets a write-up in this issue: 50 women completed a series of rides, culminating in a 50-mile challenge riding up Cheddar Gorge. See page 81 for more.

Taking into account these events and our 3,000+ club rides since the last issue of Cycle, I estimate that Cycling UK has helped thousands to cycle tens of millions of miles. That puts my meagre ride to work mileage into perspective. However, there is still the rest of this summer of cycling to enjoy, with commitments on my calendar to

Merseyside CTC group's Wild Wales Touring Challenge in August, then CTC Wessex cycling group's New Forest Grid Iron audax in October, and the Big Bike Revival rides also in October. I'd better keep cycling to work...

Quick releases

HAVE YOU GIFT AIDED YET?

In the last issue we shared with you the good news that Cycling UK can now claim Gift Aid on your membership fee. A big thank you to the thousands of members who have now made a Gift Aid declaration, which is already worth over £250,000 towards Cycling UK's work.

If you haven't yet because you've been busy out riding your bike, please do consider taking the time. For a standard £43.00 adult membership, Gift Aid is worth an additional £8.35 every year to the charity – at no expense to you. We can also retrospectively claim back to the time we became a charity in 2012. So that could turn your £8.35 into £33.40.

Signing up for Gift Aid is easy – you can complete the form that we sent to you last issue, call one of the membership team on **01483 238301**, visit www.cyclinguk.org/giftaid or complete the electronic form that we have emailed you. Thank you for your support.

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Find events near you
Search for organised rides at cyclinguk.org/uk-cycling-events