



Left: David Cook

Caernarfon Bypass volunteer group with Chris Boardman (r) & Welna Bowden (centre)

Members' conference

# BIG BIKE CELEBRATION

Cycling UK's 2017 conference in Birmingham celebrated and explored cycle promotion, as **Victoria Hazael** reports

**W**ITHOUT HUNDREDS OF volunteers, Cycling UK would not be able to help thousands of people discover the joys of cycling every year. The Big Bike Celebration on 7 October was a chance to honour those who give their time to improve cycling across the UK.

The event saw members, volunteers, staff, Trustees and supporters come together to listen to inspirational speakers, congratulate the award winners, and meet other people who are passionate about cycling and Cycling UK's work.

### SPEAKING UP FOR CYCLING

Kicking off proceedings was the former Olympic and Tour de France cyclist Chris Boardman MBE. Chris spoke to Cycling UK Chief Executive Paul Tuohy about his new role as Greater Manchester's Cycling and Walking Commissioner.

Chris said: 'Great to see so many people directly on the ground enabling others to enjoy bikes. Inspirational.'

Following Chris, former international mountain biker and co-founder and Director of the Adventure Syndicate Lee Craigie took to the stage. Lee devotes much of her time to long-distance challenges such as the recent Tour Divide in the USA (see p36) and promoting adventure cycling to others, particularly women and teenage girls. Lee's bike 'Jimmy Shand', which she rode from

Canada to Mexico, attracted lots of attention too.

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

The Best Community Project was won jointly by 1st Step Bikes in Scotland (see p8) and Monty's Bike Hub in Southampton. Bradford Bikery won Best Group Achievement or Cycling Event. The Best Campaign was by Caernarfon Bypass volunteer group, Wales. Erin Spray of Chester was named Young Achiever of the Year, with special recognition going to Charlie Smirk of Southampton. The award for Best Cycling Achievement/Individual Achiever of the Year went to Mick Buckley of Lancashire.

After lunch and the awards, there were discussions about volunteering and time to reflect on Cycling UK's recent campaigns and initiatives.

Paul Tuohy said: 'It has been an extremely positive 12 months since our last conference. Getting together to celebrate our successes with our members, partners, and loyal volunteers demonstrates the positive impact we are making across the UK. As the cyclists' champion, we have made great progress but there is so much more to do.'

A full list of winners and nominees is on the Cycling UK website: [cyclinguk.org/news/big-bike-celebration-award-winners](http://cyclinguk.org/news/big-bike-celebration-award-winners).

### Quick releases

#### TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS

*Cycling UK's Chair of Trustees Dan Howard writes:* We welcome three new Trustees to the Board of Cycling UK. A total of 3,175 members voted and the following four candidates were selected: me, Dan Howard (2,396 votes), Jaqueline Hills (2,003 votes), Carl Pearce (1,860 votes), and Andy Key (1,721 votes). I was delighted to be re-elected to continue as Chair, and I'd like to welcome Jaqueline, Carl and Andy to our Board to help deliver our strategy and the next exciting chapter in our history. Cycling UK has gone through significant positive change in recent years, and I'd like to thank so many of our members for having their say by voting and all of the candidates for putting themselves forward to be elected. I'd also like to thank the outgoing Trustees, Jim Brown, Martyn Bolt and Kristian Gregory, for their support for Cycling UK over many years.

In recent years, we have achieved so much with our cycling development programme, campaigning, advocacy, member engagement, and social cycling. But we're not resting on our laurels. As we head towards our 2018 AGM, our staff and Trustees are seeking motions from members for the development of new policies. This is your chance to get involved and shape our future. Our online guide for submitting motions is at [cyclinguk.org/agm](http://cyclinguk.org/agm). A paper copy is available from Sue Cherry, tel: 01483 238302.

We look forward to considering your motions and to discussing them with you, prior to our AGM on 12 May 2018 (venue tbc).

#### FAMILY BIKE SHOW

Cycling UK will be at The Family Bike Show, Sandown Park, Surrey from 19-20 May 2018. Details of this new event will follow in a future issue of Cycle.



'Tube maps' show network problems for cyclists



Space for Cycling

# SAFER CYCLING MAPPED OUT

London Underground-style schematic maps can help persuade your local council to plan Space for Cycling.

Tom Guha describes how

**A**ROUND THE UK, local groups have been illustrating the quality of their local cycle network by devising colour-coded 'Tube maps'. The idea was originally developed by the Bristol Cycle Campaign, and then built on by neighbouring Cycle Bath. Like the famous London Tube map, the maps use bright colours to depict a representation of the local network.

Unlike the London Tube map, the colours in these maps are used to demonstrate the gaps in a network. The general rule is that blue routes are safe and comfortable, either separated from motor traffic or on quiet, 20mph roads. Other colours denote varying degrees of danger.

### NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES

The maps act as a useful visual prompt to show local residents and decision makers the quality of the current cycle network and where the gaps need plugging. In doing so, they demonstrate the importance of planning an entire network and help to establish where investment should be prioritised.

For example, if you were to look at a map like this for where you live, would there be an entirely blue route going between your home and your workplace? Or between your home and your child's

**Safer lorries**  
London has taken steps towards driving unsafe lorries from its roads. See [bit.ly/cycle-saferlorries](http://bit.ly/cycle-saferlorries)

school? Probably not, which is why so few people choose to cycle for these journeys.

By mapping these routes, campaigners can help their local authority plan cycle networks, which councils have been asked to do as part of the Government's Cycling and Walking

Investment Strategy. Once plans like these have been made, local authorities can start seeking funding to get infrastructure on the ground.

These maps are fairly simple to make. There is a suite of tools on our website to help you – see [cyclinguk.org/tubemaps](http://cyclinguk.org/tubemaps).

Producing a map like this is not the only way to get your local authority to plan for cycling. We recently had a campaign success in Portsmouth, where campaigners worked with their councillors to pass a motion committing the council to plan, invest, and build for Space for Cycling. A draft motion, plus guidance on how to work with *your* local authority to pass it, is at [cyclinguk.org/s4cmotion](http://cyclinguk.org/s4cmotion).

**“The colours in these maps are used to show gaps in the network”**

Quick releases

### TRAILS FOR WALES

Thanks to those 8,175 people who wrote to the Welsh Government supporting our call to make more Trails for Wales. Currently, cyclists can access only 21% of the rights of way network in Wales. Cycling UK believes there's opportunity to expand this, and therefore supports government proposals to open up the countryside further. We're not alone in our thoughts, and together with the Ramblers, British Horse Society and other members of Outdoor Access Wales, we're working to improve access while minimising conflict in the Welsh countryside.

### ELECTRIC BIKES: POWER TO THE PEOPLE

As Parliament scrutinises the Government's Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill, Cycling UK is using this opportunity to push for the inclusion of e-bikes in the legislation, seeking both access to charging points and subsidies to make them more affordable. Meanwhile, with Northern Ireland still lacking a government, much-needed amendments to current legislation are unable to progress, so it remains illegal to ride an e-bike there without a motorcycle licence, registration, taxation and insurance.

### CYCLE RAIL AWARDS

On 23 November, the Rail Delivery Group announced the winners of its annual Cycle-Rail awards. There were eight awards, covering Best Customer Service (CrossCountry Trains), Cycle Champion (Steve Smith, Stagecoach), Operator of the Year (South Eastern), and more. Eurostar's Dave Bridges and Pierre Delalande were highly commended for their ongoing work with Cycling UK to make cycle carriage easier. For the list of winners, visit [raildeliverygroup.com/cycle-rail-awards.html](http://raildeliverygroup.com/cycle-rail-awards.html).





Celebration Ride by Manchester's Lady Pedal group

Cycling development

# BIG BIKE REVIVAL RIDES

Bringing bikes back into service is only part of the Big Bike Revival. It's also about encouraging bike use, as **Susan Keywood**, England's BBR Project Manager, explains

**C**YCLING UK CELEBRATED the success of this year's Big Bike Revival, which brought thousands more bikes back into service, with volunteer-led Celebration Rides throughout October. There were 264 rides, all designed for returnee cyclists; most were under 20 miles, and 103 were under 10.

The Big Bike Revival, currently running in England and Scotland, is designed to encourage people who own bikes but do not cycle to get back in the saddle. This year we worked with hundreds of grassroots cycling groups and organisations, and supported them with small grants to put on events aimed at reigniting a love of cycling. These ran from May until June, and since then our regionally-based Cycling Development Officers have supported both returnee and new cyclists to help them stay on their bikes.

Our experience tells us that, once a bike has been given a new lease of life, its owner often needs encouragement and activities to

**“New cyclists often need encouragement and activities to keep them riding”**

keep them using it. So we introduce people to our network of community clubs, which enables them to build confidence, brush-up on skills, ride as slowly as they wish, and focus on the fun. By the time autumn arrives, we can hardly wait to shout about how many Big Bike Revivalists are still cycling. We do this with our Celebration Rides.

**CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION**

Amongst the 80 community clubs and groups offering rides this year was Walsall Arboretum. Inspired by a Big Bike Revival event, they now meet every Tuesday to practise cycle skills, ending the session with a ride. There are two groups: beginners and advanced.

When I went along to meet them, a lady in her 70s was told she had improved so much as a beginner, she could graduate and join the advanced cyclists. After hugs goodbye, good luck wishes, and a couple of tears, she strolled over to join the others. It was heart-warming stuff as we watched her go off on her first bike ride. Now that's worth celebrating!



Walsall Arboretum beginners' group

**Quick releases**

**FAREWELL TO SUMMERTIME**

Cycling UK's 2017 Challenge Ride Series ended on Sunday 29 October with Emitremmus Desrever in Stevenage. The event is a regular on our calendar, but this year was part of our series of 16 longer-distance rides throughout the UK put on by our Member Groups. Emitremmus was organised for the 23rd consecutive time by founder and Cycling UK Stevenage Secretary Jim Brown. Next year's Challenge Ride Series starts in March.

**DEVILLISH FUN ON DARTMOOR**

The Dartmoor Devil in the West Country also took place on 29 October. It too was a special one as it was organised for the 25th and final time by CTC Devon volunteer Kevin Presland.

**BRIAN MORRIS PASSES AWAY**

Brian Morris, a former Vice Chair of CTC Council and one of the key figures in the modernisation of the club, died in September while out riding his bike. Born in 1935, Brian was responsible for major changes in the club's management procedures, image, publications, and headquarters; it was Brian who led the project to move CTC from ageing premises in Godalming to today's office in Guildford. He retired from CTC Council after suffering a brain haemorrhage while cycling in 2003. That incident derailed his fourth Paris-Brest-Paris audax but didn't stop him cycling. Brian's obituary is online:

[cyclinguk.org/about/obituaries](http://cyclinguk.org/about/obituaries)

**CLUB SHORTS**

West Yorkshire CTC was dissolved at a meeting held in May 2017.

**UK ride guides**  
More areas added! See [cyclinguk.org/ride/county-and-area-cycling-guides](http://cyclinguk.org/ride/county-and-area-cycling-guides)