



Left: Joolze Dymond

Where roads feel unsafe, fewer cyclists use them – and potential cyclists don't

## Campaigning

# CYCLE SAFETY: MAKE IT SIMPLE

Time is running out to respond to the Government's cycling and walking safety review. **Duncan Dollimore** explains how a few minutes of your time can make a difference

**T**HERE'S JUST ONE week left for you to support Cycling UK's most important campaign of the year, assuming you're reading this the day the magazine dropped through your letterbox. Our 'Cycle safety: make it simple' campaign ([cyclinguk.org/cyclesafety](http://cyclinguk.org/cyclesafety)) was launched in response to the Government's cycling and walking safety review, the consultation for which closes on 1 June. If you ride a bike, this campaign matters – whatever kind of cyclist you are. We really need your help.

Last September, the Government announced that it was going to carry out an urgent review into cycle safety. At the time, this looked like an add-on to the review of cycling offences prompted by wall-to-wall media coverage of the Charlie Alliston case. Alliston was convicted of wanton and furious driving, following the tragic death of pedestrian Kim Briggs. He was riding a fixed-wheel bike with no front brake at the time of the collision. While Alliston was at fault, there was an absence of any wider road safety context in most of the media reports, a willingness of many to seize the

opportunity to call for regulation of cyclists, and a misrepresentation of the risk cyclists pose to other roads users. All this did not fill us with confidence regarding the promised cycle safety review.

## SAFETY SOLUTIONS

Nevertheless, since September the Government has listened to Cycling UK and other stakeholder groups. They've extended the scope to a cycling and walking safety review, and linked it with their cycling and walking investment strategy, the goal of which is to double cycle use and increase walking while reducing fatal and serious injuries for cyclists and other road users. In the introduction to the consultation, road safety minister Jesse Norman refers to the Government's ambition to make cycling the natural mode of transport even for a 12 year old, and says that to increase active travel, cycling needs to be seen as easy, fun, and safe.

We agree. Within our 'Cycle safety: make it simple' report ([bit.ly/cycle-safetyreport2018](http://bit.ly/cycle-safetyreport2018)), we've set out exactly

## Quick releases

### THREE CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

During National Volunteers' Week, 1-7 June 2018, we will be celebrating the amazing volunteers in cycling who are part of our heritage and who are essential for our future.



# 7,600

registered volunteers

# 1,000

volunteer-led groups

- Huge range of roles including:
  - Bike mechanics**
  - Ride and tour leaders**
  - Local campaigners**
  - Event organisers**
  - ...and many, many more.



- Sign up to Veloteer, our brand new quarterly e-newsletter for volunteers, to hear about news, vacancies, advice, and stories. Email [volunteering@cyclinguk.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@cyclinguk.org.uk).



- Join this active and inspirational community by visiting [cyclinguk.org/volunteer](http://cyclinguk.org/volunteer).





Left: Adrian Willis

Good cycling infrastructure has to be designed in, not halfheartedly tacked-on

what needs to be done not just to make cycling safer but crucially to address the fears that put off many from cycling. Unless people think and feel that cycling is safe, they're unlikely to embrace it as a means of transport and recreation.

We're calling on the Government to 'make it simple' because many aspects of cycle safety aren't complex. Where there are simple measures that could be implemented to improve cyclists' safety, you have to wonder: why wouldn't you do it?

That's exactly what we're asking. Our report provides a blueprint to get more people cycling more safely, with a series of key recommendations under five main headings: safe roads and junctions; safe road users; safe speeds; safe vehicles; and safe system management, which includes recommendations on investment and collision investigation.

The theme of our report and the campaign is that these recommendations are obvious and straightforward, and should be easy to implement.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL**

We need as many people as possible to support our report and our call to the Government to take action. We've made this easy: visit [cyclinguk.org/cyclesafety](http://cyclinguk.org/cyclesafety) and click the 'Take action now' button. You can then send an editable email to

the Government to back our campaign; it only takes a few moments. We would also urge you to share our campaign with your friends via Twitter, using the hashtag **#whywouldntyou**.

The campaign needs sharing widely because the Government has told us that the initial responses have largely come from MAMILs (middle-age men in Lycra). The Government wants to hear from less experienced cyclists and from people who have been put off cycling due to past experiences or the perception of danger.

If you have a family member, neighbour, or work colleague who doesn't cycle, or who used to but stopped, please encourage them to spend a few minutes responding to this consultation. They could indicate what would encourage them to cycle to work or allow their child to ride to school. What would need to change?

The consultation asks the right questions – we've worked with the Government to ensure this – but it's the answers from you and people you know that will make a difference. Please follow the 'Take action now' link at [cyclinguk.org/cyclesafety](http://cyclinguk.org/cyclesafety) and get at least one other person you know who isn't a regular cyclist to do so too. That will help us put pressure on the Government to take action to fulfil our vision to get more people cycling, more safely – and why wouldn't you want that?

**Quick releases**



**BIKE WEEK'S 7 DAYS OF CYCLING**

Bike Week, which aims to raise the awareness of cycling in the UK and all the benefits cycling brings, is celebrating its 95th anniversary from 9-17 June. As part of the celebrations, we're asking you to take on the challenge of seven days of cycling. Any type of ride or distance counts. It could be a quick pootle to the shops, cycling to work, or an evening leisure ride – as long as you share an image or a video from the ride on social media using the hashtag **#7daysofcycling**. For details, visit [cyclinguk.org/7daysofcycling](http://cyclinguk.org/7daysofcycling).

**BIKES AND FERRIES**

A short guide to ferry operators is now available on the Cycling UK website: [cyclinguk.org/article/guide-taking-bike-ferry](http://cyclinguk.org/article/guide-taking-bike-ferry). Whether you're travelling with just your bike or taking a car as well, we've broken down all the information you'll need. If we've missed anything, let us know in the guide's comments box.

**ROAD VICTIMS ARE REAL VICTIMS**

The Government insists changes are needed to tackle fraudulent or exaggerated whiplash claims, and has proposed to do that by increasing the small claims limit from £1,000 to £5,000. Despite cyclists rarely suffering from whiplash – the commonest injuries cyclists claim for are broken bones – we're also affected by these proposals. Since 70% of cyclists' claims are under £5,000, most victims will thus have to pay their own legal costs. To respond to the Government's proposals, visit [bit.ly/cycle-realvictims](http://bit.ly/cycle-realvictims).



This year's Big Bike Revival aims to get 25,000 people back on their bikes

Cycling development

# BIG BIKE REVIVAL 4

Cycling UK's programme to fix neglected bikes and get their owners cycling again is back for a fourth year, as **Adrian Wills** reports

**C**YCLING UK HAS set an ambitious target to get at least 25,000 people back on their bikes and riding regularly by the end of the summer. We made the pledge as we launched our fourth annual Big Bike Revival, which will see hundreds of free events taking place across England and Scotland.

Around 42% of the population own a bike but never use it, citing a lack of mechanical know-how to get their bike running again. The Big Bike Revival, running until July 28th, offers bike check-ups, maintenance workshops, learn-to-ride sessions, and led rides.

James Scott, Cycling UK's Director of Development, said: 'People give many reasons for not riding their bikes, but it usually boils down to lacking confidence and skills, or having a bike that needs a little bit of maintenance. Last year, our events helped around 18,500 people take up cycling as a regular activity, which we know has profound health, social, and environmental benefits. This year, we want to help even more people get on their bikes

and remind them of the thrill that cycling gives us all.'

The project aims to help people like Kishori Agrawal, 76, who joined a Cycling UK community cycle club formed in Walsall after the Big Bike Revival last year. She hadn't ridden a bike for many years and was looking to regain some skills and develop her confidence on a bike.

She said: 'I remember cycling in the '90s, but it was just riding through the park with my children. I joined the group because I wanted to learn how to keep my balance on the bike. I wanted to be safe enough to go out with my children and my grandchildren, but I found cycling is really good as physical exercise and it's good for my mind and my mental health, so I really enjoy it.'

Last year, more than 64,000 people attended in excess of 1,900 free events. The project fixed more than 1,600 bikes and generated more than 37,000 new cycle trips.

For more information, or to find a Big Bike Revival event near you, check out the website: [cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival](http://cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival).

Quick releases



**EDINBURGH ABC IS THREE**

Edinburgh ABC (All-ability Bike Centre) celebrates its third birthday on 17 June. Based at the City of Edinburgh Council's Bangholm Outdoor Centre and run by Cycling UK Scotland, ABC has introduced more than 350 people to cycling, irrespective of age or ability, by using Edinburgh's traffic-free cycle network and a range of adapted and solo bikes. David Glover, Edinburgh ABC Development Officer, said: 'This is about celebrating the amazing achievements of all our riders and volunteers over the last three years, alongside their friends and family.' Follow the group on Facebook at [facebook.com/EdinburghABC/](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghABC/) and on Twitter at [@edinburgh\\_abc](https://twitter.com/edinburgh_abc).

**RE: CYCLE PLASTIC**

In response to concerns from members, this month's Cycle magazine is being delivered in recyclable plastic for the first time. The plastic is designed to be recycled with other carrier bags at some larger supermarkets. We are continuing to explore other options that are kind to environment but also protect your magazine.

**DATA PROTECTION UPDATE**

As part of new data protection regulations (GDPR) being introduced across Europe in May, we have reviewed and renewed Cycling UK's privacy policies. We wanted to reassure members that we take the protection of your data extremely seriously, and remind you that you can update your profile on our website at any time.



Left: Joolze Dymond

It's free to register rides for the festival, and the first 50 who do can claim freebies

### Cycling events

## WOMEN'S FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

On the centenary of women's suffrage, Cycling UK is celebrating 100 Women in Cycling and putting on a range of events for women. **Julie Rand** explains

**T**HIS YEAR'S WOMEN'S Festival of Cycling in July is shaping up to be the best yet, with female-friendly and women-only events throughout the country. They include: a short social ride in Canterbury with cake and bubbles; a ride in Sussex celebrating the poet Shelley; an off-road ride in Surrey visiting places frequented by the Suffragettes; a 30-50 mile road ride in Newcastle; 14-mile evening rides throughout the summer in Perthshire; and many more.

This year's festival is celebrating the 100th anniversary of female suffrage with the theme of 'Cycle Liberation' ([#cyclelib](#)), to reflect the link between cycling and greater freedom and independence for women. Many of the early campaigners for votes for women were also enthusiastic cyclists and members of Cycling UK in its earlier incarnation as the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC). For example, the first woman on CTC Council was Rose Lamartine Yates, who joined the organisation in 1900 and later spent a month in Holloway prison after attending a demonstration calling for female suffrage.

Rose is one of Cycling UK's 100 Women in Cycling 2018. Along with 99 other women past and present who encourage other women to cycle, her achievements will be celebrated at a special event in Manchester. Why Manchester? Because it is also known as 'Suffragette City' due to its connections with suffragist martyr Emmeline Pankhurst, who was born on Moss Side. Coincidentally, it also hosts Cycle City Active City on 28-29 June, and is where Greater Manchester's new walking and cycling commissioner Chris Boardman is making a mark with increased funding for active travel.

A century after female suffrage, there's still a need for female-specific events because women remain underrepresented in cycling. We would love it if all rides were 'female friendly' but not all women feel comfortable riding in a mixed group, whilst others prefer riding exclusively with other women. So we're asking as many women as possible to register a ride for the festival or take part in an event. For more details, visit [cyclinguk.org/ride/womens-festival-cycling](#).

### Quick releases



Left: Peter Eland

#### YORK RALLY

York Rally, now run by a group of independent volunteers, takes place from 23-24 June at the traditional venue of the Knavesmire in York, where there's ample space for campers. As well as the usual rides, cycle jumble and auction, trade show, and talks, this year's Rally will again be busy with grasstrack racers. There will also be extra children's activities from iTravel York and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. For details, plus online campsite bookings, visit [yorkrally.org](#). If you have a query, call 07467 321 443.

#### CYCLING FESTIVALS IN WALES

- The Welsh Cycling Festival takes place in Ruthin from 19-24 July. There are four rides each day and camping is available on site. For details, contact Emrys Jones: 01952 257522, [demrys2jones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:demrys2jones@hotmail.co.uk).
- The Gower Cycling Festival runs from 18-25 August, with 21 led-rides around and beyond the Gower Peninsula. Details at [gowercyclingfestival.org](#).

#### 100 CLIMBS AHEAD

Three Cycling UK members are appealing for others to join them on a journey tackling all 100 climbs in Simon Warren's book, 100 Greatest Cycling Climbs. Friends Dom Millar from Guildford, Graham Salisbury from Petersfield, and James Findlater from Bristol will set out from Surrey on 17 August on a 3,300-mile tour of England, Wales, and Scotland. To sign up or to find out more, visit their website: [100climbschallenge.org](#).