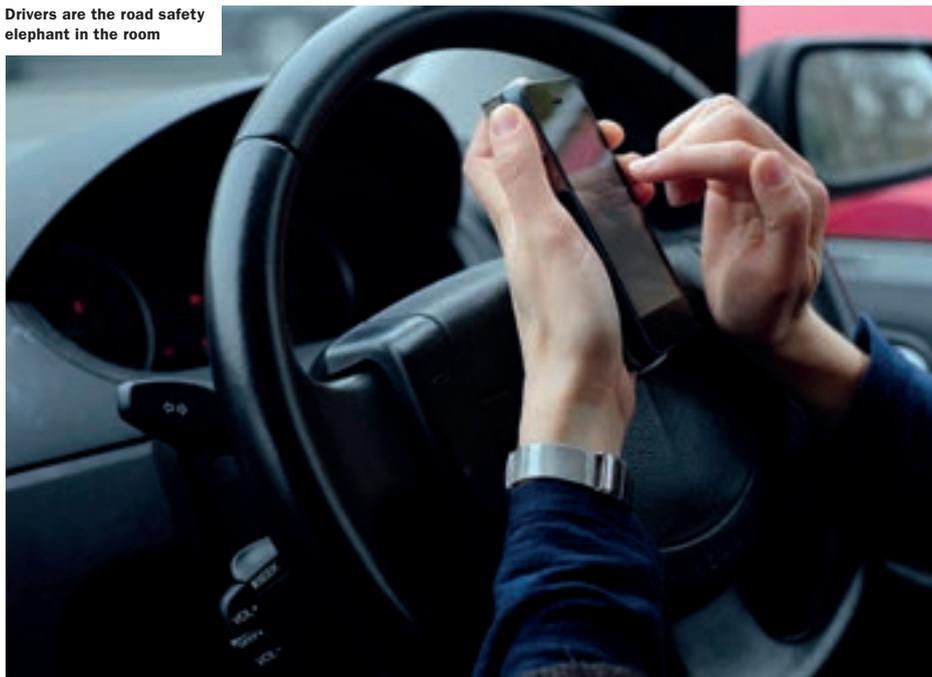


Drivers are the road safety elephant in the room



Left: Evan Dawson / Alamy

Traffic law review

ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENSIVE

Cycling UK is calling for a review of all road traffic offences, not just those perpetrated by cyclists. **Duncan Dollimore** explains how you can help

ROAD SAFETY AND road justice issues have always been core themes of our engagement and lobbying work, both as Cycling UK now and CTC before that. They're part of our DNA. They're why we've long campaigned for a review of traffic laws and of how the justice system deals with irresponsible, careless, and dangerous behaviour on our roads.

Four years ago, we thought we'd made some progress when the Government promised to carry out a full review of traffic offences in England, Scotland, and Wales. But waiting for that to start has been like 'Waiting for Godot', Samuel Beckett's play where there's nothing to be done and nothing ever happens.

I suppose it all comes down to the Government's priorities. Last September, following wall-to-wall media coverage of the Charlie Alliston case, the Government announced that it was going to review cycling offences to address 'a gap in the law'. I couldn't count the number of victims and bereaved relatives I've spoken to over recent years who've been let down by traffic laws and the justice system, neither of which seem to take road crime seriously. Yet their cases haven't been a priority, and the gaps and inconsistencies in the law they've experienced haven't been addressed. I've had no answer

when some have asked me why the death of their loved one didn't lead to the media outrage that the tragic death of a pedestrian hit by a cyclist did last year.

The clamour to clamp down on cyclists has barely let up over the last year, and in August the Government launched a 12-week consultation on new cycling offences. This ignores the fact that, while we've been waiting for the broader review it promised four years ago, more than 1,800 pedestrians have died on Britain's roads, 99.4% of them in collisions with motor vehicles. The Government is just tinkering at the edges, and we've launched a new campaign – cyclinguk.org/campaign/road-justice, supported by the charities Brake and RoadPeace – calling on the Government to widen its review and look at the bigger problems with our road traffic laws instead of focussing solely on cycling offences. Doing that ignores the elephant in the room.

If you agree that road crime should be treated as real crime and that road traffic laws should deliver just and safe outcomes, you've got until 5 November to support our campaign. Visit cyclinguk.org/roadjustice to email your MP and add your voice to our response to the Government's consultation. Around 7,500 of you did so within the first week of our new campaign. Why wouldn't you want to join them? >

Quick releases

BIG BIKE CELEBRATION

One hundred and forty years after Cycling UK was founded in the town, our 2018 annual get-together is at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate on Saturday 6 October. Our fourth members' conference will include guest speakers, details of successful campaigns, and tales of touring exploits, projects and clubs that are helping more people to experience cycling. It's free to attend. Details at cyclinguk.org/bigbikecelebration.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

It's election time again for Cycling UK's Board of Trustees. You'll find statements from the shortlisted candidates, plus a voting form, on one of the inserts included with this issue. Details for voting are on the form. If yours is missing, phone 01483 238300 or email membership@cyclinguk.org.

ACTIVE TRAVEL CAMPAIGN

Cycling UK and Living Streets have launched a new campaign to secure local authority funding for cycling and walking provision in England. Local authorities have been encouraged by the Government to prepare Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans that prioritise active travel, but the funding pot to enable them to start building networks is empty! For details, see cyclinguk.org/activetravel.

CLAIMING VICTORY

After 18 months of campaigning and thousands of letters from Cycling UK members to the Ministry of Justice, the Government has listened to us and will not include cyclists in proposals to increase the small claims limit in road traffic injury cases from £1k to £5k. It's a big win for cyclists and Cycling UK, as cyclists will still be able to recover their legal costs for the majority of their road traffic injury claims. More information at bit.ly/cycle-smallclaims.

Slow down and greet the horserider before passing



Left: British Horse Society

Rider etiquette

BE NICE, SAY HI

Cycling UK and the British Horse Society call for courtesy when cyclists and equestrians encounter each other. **Sam Jones** outlines the awareness campaign

TO HELP CYCLISTS and horse riders pass each other in safety, Cycling UK and the British Horse Society (BHS) have launched an awareness campaign: 'Be Nice, Say Hi'. It's a project our two organisations have been working on for a while, as both memberships have asked for guidance. The 'Be Nice, Say Hi' message comes very much from the mountain bike community, where groups including OpenMTB, Ride Sheffield, and Peak District MTB have used this line to improve relationships between trail users.

High-profile media events have also highlighted a need for more awareness. With our two videos – for on and off-road scenarios – and a short downloadable guide, we've now got a succinct message. Most readers of Cycle and regular cyclists will probably know how to overtake a horse safely when out on their bikes, so with 'Be Nice, Say Hi' we're looking to reach new audiences.

It's estimated that only 3.5 million people (6% of the GB population) have ridden a horse in the last 12 months, suggesting many people are unfamiliar with horses and how to interact around them. The Highway Code is clear for when driving: pass wide and slow. It is slightly different for cycling.

Every time you encounter a horse when out cycling, there are three brains involved: yours, the rider's, and the horse's. Horses are flight animals and may react to anything they are unsure of, such as silent cyclists approaching from their rear. BHS and Cycling UK are therefore urging people to drop their pace and call out a greeting, giving the horse and rider time to react before overtaking wide and slow. While silent and swift objects approaching from behind is one of the equestrian community's biggest concerns, the films also look into head-on encounters and approaches around blind bends.

'We're thrilled to be collaborating with Cycling UK as both groups are vulnerable road users and will benefit from working together to share the roads,' said BHS Director of Safety, Alan Hiscox, who added that the message isn't just for cyclists: 'We are encouraging riders to respond positively to cyclists who pass with consideration and reciprocate their courtesy.'

'Be Nice, Say Hi' badges are already in place along parts of the Pennine Bridleway, and there are plans for the signs to go up in the Surrey Hills and other areas in the near future. To see the videos and find out more, visit cyclinguk.org/horses.

Quick releases

HALFORDS CHECKOUT CHANGES

From 1 October, Halfords is tweaking the terms of your 10% in-store discount on cycling products. You'll need to show both your membership card and a voucher code, which will change each month. To get the code, log onto the Cycling UK website and visit the Halfords page at cyclinguk.org/member-benefits.

MEMBER GROUP AGMs

Autumn is the time to find out what your local Cycling UK Member Group has been up to lately, and perhaps look at how to get involved. All groups have AGMs in October or November, and all Cycling UK members are invited. Find your nearest AGM at cyclinguk.org/cycling-uk-member-group-agms-2018.

BIKES ON EUROSTAR

Eurostar has announced changes to its pricing structure for transporting bikes from this September. The good news is that Cycling UK members who use the bike boxes and tools provided by Eurostar will get £5 off. See cyclinguk.org/eurostar.

JOIN OUR STRAVA CLUB

Are you on Strava? Want to see how you're comparing to your fellow Cycling UK members in terms of kilometres cycled and metres climbed? Join Cycling UK's official Strava club. As well as posting regular competitions for new kit and exclusive offers, we're also flagging up great rides across the UK. Join here: strava.com/clubs/453551.

CHALLENGE RIDES

Cycling UK's 2018 Challenge Ride Series comes to an end this month with the last two events in the series: Wessex CTC's 100km New Forest Gridiron on Sunday 14 October, and Stevenage Cycling's 101km Emitremmus and 67km Emitlite on Sunday 28 October. Details at bit.ly/cycle-challenge2018.

Fifty women joined the Belles Big Ride in Falkirk as part of the Women's Festival of Cycling



Photos: bottom right, Calvin Cheung; far right, Joolze Dymond; top right, Andy Catlin; others, Cycling UK

2018 events

SNAPSHOTS OF SUMMER

Adrian Wills looks back on some of the highlights of Cycling UK's busiest cycling season

WHAT A SUMMER it's been! Not only has the weather been glorious, but we've packed in a full season of events to celebrate cycling and to encourage more people onto their bikes.

In May, we launched our fourth Big Bike Revival across the country, encouraging new cyclists to discover the joys of riding their bikes. Thousands of people took advantage of bike check-ups, maintenance workshops, learn-to-ride sessions, guided bike rides, and social events. Find out more on our website: cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival.

Our annual Bike Week celebration kicked off in June with an MPs' bike ride in London, supported by broadcaster and cycling enthusiast Jeremy Vine and the Cycling Minister, Jesse Norman MP. The launch event at the Dutch Embassy was supported by more than 100 professionals from the cycling world, and as always featured a mass

ride to Parliament, where the minister hosted a question-and-answer session at the House of Lords. For more, visit cyclinguk.org/bikeweek-vine.

Then it was off to Manchester where we announced our 100 Women in Cycling for the start of July's Women's Festival of Cycling. This year's theme was 'breaking the mould', and it focussed on women who have achieved great things in typically male-dominated sectors of cycling. You can find the full list of our 100 Women in Cycling on our website: cyclinguk.org/100women.

In Scotland, Play Together on Pedals launched in Edinburgh, encouraging families and preschool children across the city to cycle more. The programme has already been running successfully in Glasgow, where more than 8,000 children have been taught to ride a bike. Read more on our website: cyclinguk.org/playtogetheronpedals.

In Inverness, we launched the WheelNess project which is aimed at improving people's health, wealth and happiness. It will have a particular focus on people on low incomes who might struggle to afford a bike or those with underlying health problems who might benefit from cycling. More details on our website: cyclinguk.org/wheelness.

“Thousands took advantage of bike check-ups, workshops, learn-to-ride sessions, guided bike rides, and social events”

The WheelNess project launched in Inverness



Play Together on Pedals is teaching Edinburgh preschoolers to cycle



A Big Bike Revival event in Birmingham



Our '100 Women in Cycling' were announced in Manchester in July



Bike Week kicked off in June with the MPs' bike ride in London

