

Drivers to be shown the error of their ways



Campaigning

# SEEING IS BELIEVING

Police will be educating drivers with virtual reality headsets in the next phase of our Too Close For Comfort campaign, as **Keir Gallagher** reports

**C**LOSE PASSES ARE one of the most serious problems faced by cyclists. Whether it's on the way to work, on a training ride, or during a potter down to the shops, we've all experienced the terrifying moment a car squeezes by at high speed. Close passes are not only dangerous but discourage countless potential cyclists from getting on their bikes in the first place. That's why Cycling UK has long been at the forefront in campaigning to tackle dangerous overtaking, and we're delighted to report two recent campaigning successes.

The first follows on from our Too Close For Comfort campaign, which last year raised £12,000 to provide close pass mats to police nationwide. The mats enable forces to run close pass operations, with plain clothes officers on bikes identifying dangerous passes. Offending drivers are given a fine or

an educational session, using the mats to highlight the importance of leaving at least 1.5m when overtaking cyclists.

We've now launched a new phase of Too Close For Comfort, developing an innovative new tool – a virtual reality (VR) 'changing perspectives' film. This 360°, immersive film allows drivers to experience a close pass from a cyclist's perspective. It includes a demonstration of how to overtake safely.

To help this project reach police on the ground, we again turned to our members and the public for support. Thanks to 929 backers pledging over £17,000, we'll soon be sending VR headsets to police forces throughout the UK for use in live operations and at events. In the longer term, we'll also be working to have the film signposted by the DVLA and integrated into driver education and re-training programmes. A huge thank-you to everyone who made this possible.

The Government, meanwhile, has recently announced that it will be reviewing the Highway Code rules on cycling and walking, including those relating to overtaking cyclists. This was one of Cycling UK's key calls in our Cycle Safety: Make it Simple report handed to Government earlier this year.

For more, see [cyclinguk.org/toocloseforcomfort](http://cyclinguk.org/toocloseforcomfort).

Close passing is all too common



Quick releases



Jenny at the finish in Berlin

**JENNY GRAHAM BREAKS RECORD**

Not one but now two Cycling UK members hold world records for the fastest circumnavigation of the earth by bike, with Jenny Graham joining fellow Scot Mark Beaumont. Jenny covered 18,000 miles in 125 days, taking 19 days off the record despite riding unsupported. There will be a fuller piece on Jenny next issue.

**SEND US YOUR SNAPS**

Every week, Cycling UK holds a cycling photo competition on social media, releasing the photograph theme on Fridays via Instagram and Twitter. Just add #bestbybike to your photograph and we'll feature the winner in CycleClips and on our Instagram wall. Follow @wearecyclinguk on Instagram and Twitter.

**CYCLE QUEST SUCCESS**

Ian Stuart from Derbyshire and Jacqui Godfrey from London are the latest tourists to gain the British Cycle Quest Trophy.

**AGM: CALL FOR MOTIONS**

Notice is given that our AGM will be held in June 2019 in London, date and venue to be confirmed. Cycling UK members wishing to propose a motion should read our guide for submitting motions at [cyclinguk.org/agm-motions-2019](http://cyclinguk.org/agm-motions-2019). A paper copy is available from Sue Cherry, tel: 01483 238 302. We look forward to considering your motions and to discussing them with you, prior to the AGM. The deadline for motions is 1 February 2019, via email to [sue.cherry@cyclinguk.org](mailto:sue.cherry@cyclinguk.org) (write 'Draft AGM motion 2019' as the subject) or by post to Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX.

## Campaigning

## SHOW US THE MONEY

English councils need Government money to realise their walking and cycling plans. **Duncan Dollimore** outlines Cycling UK's campaign to secure it

**C**YCLE CAMPAIGNERS LOVE an acronym, so the UK Government's first cycling and walking investment strategy, published last April, soon became known as CWIS. As transport is devolved across the four nations, CWIS only concerned England, with local authorities encouraged to produce local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIPs).

An investment strategy normally sets out how much and where the money is coming from, and how and what it should be spent on. So local authority leaders tasked with building cycling and walking infrastructure could be forgiven if they'd responded to CWIS like Cuba Gooding Jr in the film *Jerry Maguire*, screaming at his agent 'Show me the money!'

Jumping forward to November 2018, 44 local authorities or groups of local authorities in England (covering around half of England's population outside London) are now receiving technical support to produce LCWIPs. The indications are that many are coming up with proper network plans and priority schemes. The elephant in the room is the lack of any ring-fenced funding, which local authorities would apply for to build the infrastructure identified in their plans.

That's why, along with the charity Living Streets, we've launched a new walking and cycling funding campaign, [cyclinguk.org/wouldyourather](http://cyclinguk.org/wouldyourather), calling on the Government to give councils the funding they need to make

**“The elephant in the room is the lack of any ring-fenced funding”**

more public spaces that are comfortable, safe, and attractive to be in. The message that this is about creating safer, healthier and happier streets is crucial if we want more MPs to make a noise about funding in their area, because talking about CWIS, LCWIPs, and infrastructure plans hasn't engaged enough of them in the past. Safe routes to school and healthy streets have far greater resonance.

Last September, following collaborative campaigning by various organisations in Scotland through the We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote campaign, the Scottish Government doubled the annual level of funding for active travel. Our new campaign in England aims to make funding for walking and cycling relevant locally. It's the first step to leveraging the type of increase in active travel spend that we've seen in Scotland.

If you live in England (outside London, which has a separate funding arrangement), please tell your MP and council leader the type of streets, places, and town centres you'd rather have, and why more funding is needed to deliver this, via our online campaign action [cyclinguk.org/activetravel](http://cyclinguk.org/activetravel).

Selly Oak Junction in Birmingham – as we'd like to see it



## Quick releases

## E-BIKE BOOST FOR SCOTLAND

The promotion of e-bikes in Scotland has been boosted by £470,000 of grants from the Scottish Government's first E-bike Grant Fund. The funding will support a range of public sector organisations and community groups to promote and encourage e-bike use – including universities and colleges, local charities, environmental groups, and community development trusts. Grants have also provided 115 e-bikes that will be available to hire through existing cycle rental schemes in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Due to demand, a further £250,000 will be available for a second funding round. Meanwhile in England, a £2m fund is planned to help individual businesses by contributing 20% of the cost of new e-cargo bikes.

## THAT'S CHAMPION!

Mick Heath, a driving force behind Cycling UK affiliated group Green CHIPS, has been named Cycling Champion of the Year 2018 in Scotland. Mick is a founding member of Cycling Without Age Inverness, rides with his local tandem club for visually impaired cyclists, and is a key member of Cycling UK Highland. The Cycling Champion award is promoted and awarded jointly by Cycling Scotland, Sustrans Scotland, Scottish Cycling, and Cycling UK. Read more at: [cyclinguk.org/cyclingchampionscotland](http://cyclinguk.org/cyclingchampionscotland).

## DON'T LET WALES FAIL

Cycling UK has added its support to the coalition of Welsh campaigning groups, Cycle on the Senedd. They're calling for a doubling of investment in active travel to £20 per head each year. Currently the Welsh Government spends just £10, far less than Scotland, but still more than England and Northern Ireland. If you live in Wales and want better provision for cycling, visit [cyclinguk.org/cycleonthesenedd](http://cyclinguk.org/cycleonthesenedd).

A 140th birthday toast to Cycling UK



## Events

# BIG BIKE CELEBRATION

The 2018 members' conference went back to where it all began for Cycling UK: Harrogate. **Helen Cook** was there

**C**YCLING UK MEMBERS, volunteers, and speakers converged on Harrogate, North Yorkshire, for our Big Bike Celebration in October – 140 years after the organisation was founded in town by Stanley Cotterell in 1878. Chief Executive Paul Tuohy kicked things off by introducing Cycling UK's new five-year strategy, and looking back at the achievements of the past 12 months.

A wide range of topics and experiences were shared by the fantastic line up of speakers, including television and radio presenter Angellica Bell, who talked about learning to cycle as an adult (see p8). Cycling UK member Natalie Wilson, whom we featured last issue, shared her story about becoming the first disabled female cyclist to circumnavigate the coastline of Great Britain.

Examples of the impact groups and individuals are having at local level was bought to life by Shaila Sharif, a Bikeability instructor from Birmingham, and Paul Hilditch from Derby and Burton CTC, who talked about their successful 'Couch to Coast' programme.

A panel with Shadow Transport Minister Rachael Maskell, MP for York Central, and Ben Still, MD of West Yorkshire Combined Authority, discussed how funding and infrastructure need to be improved in order to grow a cycling culture. Cycling UK's Tom Murray highlighted the significant impact the Cycle 4 Health project has had in improving the physical and mental health of its participants.

Above: Andy Whitehouse

## AWARD WINNING

The Big Bike Celebration is also an opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work done by Cycling UK members and groups.

The Volunteers of the Year Awards went to:

**Best Community Project:** Resurrection Bikes

**Exceptional Individual – Community Project:** Peter Jeans

**Best Event:** Diss Cyclathon

**Outstanding Young Achiever:** Ben Deakin

**Outstanding Campaigning Group:** Portsmouth Cycle Forum

**Outstanding Campaigning Individual:** Dr Katie Walker

**Best Cycling Programme:** Experience Community

**Exceptional Individual – Cycling Programme:**

Winner chose to remain anonymous

**Best Cycling Group:** Balsall Heath

**Exceptional Individual – Cycling Group:** Chris Harris

For more about why they won, plus all the shortlisted candidates, visit [cyclinguk.org/about/volunteers-year-awards](http://cyclinguk.org/about/volunteers-year-awards).

The winners of the Cyclist Café of the Year, voted for by Cycling UK members, were: Café Velo in Ringwood for England; Bow Bells in County Down for Northern Ireland; Velocity in Inverness for Scotland; 'I want to ride my bike café, bar and workshop' in Cardiff for Wales; and the Lifetime Achievement award went to Eureka Café in Chester.

In the Cycling UK Tourist Competition, Chester & North Wales CTC again cleaned up.

## Quick releases

### TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Cycling UK's Chair of Trustees Dan Howard writes: We were pleased to receive so many high quality applications and are delighted to announce that Christine Gibbons, Jaki Lowe, Paul Baker, Andy Macnae, and Melanie Carroll have been elected to serve on the board of Trustees from 1 January 2019. Full results details will be published on the website. Trustees Welna Bowden, Jonathan Naughton, Ian Wescombe and Ian McCabe leave the board at the end of 2018. We'd like to thank them for their significant contributions over many years, especially Welna who has served since 2010.

Our Articles of Association specify that only individuals who are members of Cycling UK are permitted to be included on the ballot paper, and an oversight resulted in one candidate being on the ballot paper who was not eligible. The ballot results have been carefully analysed and we are satisfied, on balance, that this error would not have changed those who have been elected. The procedure for the nomination and election or appointment of Trustees is being reviewed to avoid similar failures in the future and identify opportunities for wider improvements.