

£6.1bn
Spent by NHS
every year on
obesity-related
ill-health



Our Play Together on Pedals project in Scotland helped 2,724 children get riding

Photo: Andy Catlin

Northern Ireland

FIRST STAFF MEMBER IN N.I.

With the Northern Ireland Assembly back up and running, we're delighted to announce that we have our first staff member based there. Engagement officer Joshua Murray will be writing to local members as we begin engaging supporters, influencing decision makers, and getting more people on bikes. If you're in Northern Ireland and want to be involved, email campaigns@cyclinguk.org

Strategy

PEDALLING AHEAD

Cycling UK's latest Annual Report is on the website. Adrian Wills highlights some key findings

We're on a mission to inspire a million more people to cycle by 2023. Two years into our strategy, how are we doing? Spring is when we produce our annual financial report, reflecting on the last 12 months. The good news is that we're making huge strides.

For example, more than 13,000 new cycling trips were made in England through the Big Bike Revival in 2018/19. Over a hundred people received bikes on a long-term loan as part of our Wheelness project in Inverness. A total of 9,108 potholes were reported via the FillThatHole app and website. Our membership grew to more than 68,000. And our website had 4.5 million page views.

Our campaign work remained a cornerstone of what we do. More 11,500 actions were completed in our campaign for a drastic governmental increase in spending in cycling; 14,000 people viewed our video promoting the use of the Dutch Reach; and we launched the 800-mile Great North Trail.

With recurring funding from the Department of Transport, our Big Bike Revival

programme saw 7,334 non-regular cyclists increasing their cycling activity.

In West Yorkshire, 133 people were introduced to cycling through our Cycle for Health scheme in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combine Authority.

Once again we named 100 Women in Cycling, and we put on 115 Women's Festival of Cycling events. We grew our volunteer network to 8,723, and we set up 18 new community club initiatives in Scotland.

Ten businesses signed up to our Cycle Friendly Employers Scheme, reaching 18,575 employees. In Bike Week, 314 events were held across the UK.

Chief Executive Paul Tuohy said: "It's been an exceptional year. We've encouraged tens of thousands more people to get in the saddle and made cycling safer for everyone with our vital campaigning work. It's only been possible with the support of our members. For that, I thank you and hope your support will continue in the exciting years ahead."

The full financial report will be published on the Cycling UK website later this year.

Cycling development

BIG BIKE REVIVAL IS BACK

In 2019, Cycling UK engaged with more than 60,000 people in the Big Bike Revival in England and Scotland, hosting 1,599 events. Many events took place in communities with multiple barriers to starting cycling and have either helped people discover the gift of cycling, or brought them back into the fold. We're pleased to say the Big Bike Revival will be back for 2020 – find out more at: cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival



A Big Bike Revival event in Portsmouth last year

Awards

100 WOMEN IN CYCLING

Nominations are open for Cycling UK's 100 Women in Cycling 2020. It's a chance to highlight everyday heroines who champion and inspire cycling locally and nationally. Do you know a female cyclist who is improving or increasing cycling, or who ignites your passion for riding a bike? Nominate her today! Voting closes on 10 April. For details, visit cyclinguk.org/100women2020



Touring

SUSTAINABLE CYCLE TOURISM

Cycling UK is one of 14 partners collaborating on the EU-funded project, EXPERIENCE. Over the next three years we will work together to deliver innovative and sustainable off-season tourism experiences in six pilot regions in England and France, with initial focus in Cornwall, Kent and Norfolk. To find out more, head to: cyclinguk.org/experience

85%
Percentage of women in the UK who say they never cycle



Bike Week activities will be in September, but we're also celebrating online in June

Left: Marcus Ahmed Far left: Caudenz Danuser Below: Joolze Dymond

Events

TWO BITES OF BIKE WEEK

Bike Week is Cycling UK's annual celebration to showcase cycling. It's been running for 96 years, and it's a great opportunity to get bums on bikes. If you ride year round, every week is bike week. So why should you get involved?

It's an exciting and unique opportunity to engage the general public and highlight the positive benefits of cycling. In short: you can help someone else be inspired about riding a bike. Without the support of enthusiasts like you, Bike Week wouldn't have the power to make a difference.

We realise that, in these uncertain times,

helping people to come together to ride may not be possible, so we're looking to hold Bike Week events and activities later in the year in September; details will be on the website cyclinguk.org/bikeweek.

That said, we can keep talking about and sharing our love of riding. We'll be celebrating cycling online during Bike Week's traditional dates in the summer.

From 6-14 June this year, we'll capture public imagination with inspiring stories on our website and social media. You can take part through our [#7daysofcycling](https://twitter.com/7daysofcycling) social media challenge and join the conversation.

Access

DON'T LOSE YOUR WAYS

Thousands of miles of trails across England and Wales could be lost forever unless we make an effort to put them on the map. Our rights of way network is one of our most precious assets, so we've teamed up with Ramblers and the British Horse Society to help people discover lost rights of way before the 2026 deadline. Ramblers' new tool makes it easy to compare historic and current maps to find what's missing. Make sure the routes you ride are protected for future generations. cyclinguk.org/2026



Some rights of way are well mapped and signed. Many aren't



Chancellor Rishi Sunak splurged billions on transport but couldn't find a single penny for cycling

Funding

BUDGET COMES UP SHORT

*Budget statements in Holyrood and Westminster were miles apart on active travel. **Duncan Dollimore** was unimpressed*

In recent weeks we've seen national budgets agreed in both Edinburgh and London, and when it came to money for cycling and walking the contrast was stark. Plagiarising Dickens' opening lines from A Tale of Two Cities: in Scotland, for active travel, it was the age of wisdom, the epoch of belief, and the spring of hope; in England it was the age of foolishness, the epoch of incredulity, and the winter of despair.

Admittedly the political realities are different in Scotland; the Scottish National Party needed support to get its budget through parliament. After announcing a modest £5.5million increase to the active travel budget, it had to add a further £15million to secure Scottish Green Party votes, taking the total investment next year to £100million. Now that's still not enough, but funding for cycling and walking per person in Scotland already exceeded levels in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Rishi Sunak's first Westminster budget spectacularly failed to include a single penny for active travel, leaving English councils outside London with no earmarked money

whatsoever to spend on local cycling and walking network plans from next month. With funding falling off a cliff, money needed to be allocated in the budget. Instead it was 'jam tomorrow' and a promise of a huge increase in infrastructure investment, with details to follow at the end of the re-launched spending review.

Budget day in Westminster was undoubtedly a day of despair, with a clear message about priorities. The Chancellor chose to park short- and long-term funding decisions on active travel, pending a spending review, whilst announcing a staggering £27billion road building programme. A green light for infrastructure spending that compounds the climate, air pollution, congestion, and inactivity-related public health crises we face. A red light for investment in active travel, which presents the cheapest, quickest and effective solutions.

But campaigning success often comes after initial defeats. So watch out for how you can help as we ramp up our funding campaign during the spending review, and ask Boris Johnson: "Why won't you get cycling done?"



CTC SW London Midweek Wayfarers celebrate their 40th

Member Groups

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

CTC South West London Midweek Wayfarers celebrated their 40th anniversary with a ride and lunch on 4 March. The group organises rides for all abilities, mostly setting off from North Cheam. Cycling UK Lincolnshire is marking its 90th birthday with a lunch on Sunday 24 May. Anybody with a connection to the group is welcome to attend. Visit cyclinguk.org/event/90th-anniversary for updates.

Infrastructure

POTHOLE WATCH

Cycling UK's second annual Pothole Watch, which ran from 16-20 March, highlighted how **only one-in-ten local authorities is meeting its own target times to fix potholes and road defects. Potholes are a real menace to cyclists, which is why we created Fill That Hole: to give everyone a tool to report dangerous road defects and get them fixed. fillthathole.org.uk**



Hardly model behaviour: most repairs are delayed

Left: Rob Spanning