

this is cycling UK



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Riding out the storm

The pandemic has left many organisations picking up the pieces. Cycling UK came through it thanks to your support, as **Interim Chief Executive Pete Fitzboydon** explains

I remember exactly when normal life came to an abrupt end. It was a cool Monday evening at the end of March when the Prime Minister announced he was placing the country into lockdown. Suddenly, we couldn't leave home unless for essential travel or exercise. Shops, pubs and restaurants were shut, social gatherings banned, and group rides had to be suspended, although thankfully we were still allowed to ride our bikes on our own if we were sensible and didn't stray too far from home.

Overnight, it was as if the Government had pressed the pause button on normality. Life fell into a spring hibernation – but not here at Cycling UK. Yes, we had to ask staff to work from home; our normal summer of activities had to be suspended; and plans for Bike Week and the Women's Festival of Cycling had to move online.

Working through lockdown

Like most organisations, we've also taken a hefty financial hit – although you've stuck with us as members, which has really helped to soften the blow. So what did we do? We doubled down and started working harder than ever on making sure we were supporting you and your cycling. We kept you up to date with the latest Government guidance, launched a campaign for temporary cycle infrastructure, offered free membership to NHS key workers, revamped our Big Bike Revival to make it available for all key workers, and announced a new pop-up mechanic project in England and a cycle repair scheme in Scotland.

There are more exciting plans to be announced in the coming weeks when we launch 'Pumped' (see page 8). That's testament to the commitment of the staff here, but you'd expect nothing less from us.



Just take a look at our recently published 2018/19 Impact Report (cyclinguk.org/article/cycling-uks-year-numbers), which highlights our achievements from last year, such as: our member groups put on almost 11,000 rides; around 13,000 new cycling trips were made thanks to the Big Bike Revival; we launched our 800-mile Great North Trail; and we lobbied hard for additional funding for cycling. In

Scotland, we set up 18 new community cycle clubs. In Wales, we joined 200 people to cycle on the Senedd to campaign for more investment in cycling. The list of achievements goes on, but none of it would have been possible without your support and your membership fees.

Ready for the new normal

But as the continued health crisis has shown us, we all need to adapt and modernise. That's especially true for Cycling UK if we're to survive and prosper in this new "golden age of cycling", as the Prime Minister described it. That's why we're bringing you details this month of a proposal to make our membership fees fairer, so that our concessions are based on the ability to pay rather than simply age, not only for fairness's sake but for the continued success of Cycling UK (full details are on pages 14-15).

You can also find out about: plans for a significant new off-road route; our renewed commitment to making cycling welcoming for all; and details of our Summer Raffle and our AGM, which is now in September.

Life may have changed for us all due to Covid-19 but we're still here for you, protecting your right to cycle and inspiring more people into the saddle. So thank you for your continued support. It means everything to us.



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