



Quick releases

Cycling news and views from around the UK

CAMPAIGNS



Left: Andy Catlin. Right: volunteer photographer Peter Cornish

Brilliant glow rides

More than 3,000 people took part in 67 mass glow rides across the home nations as part of Cycling UK's 'My ride. Our right' campaign. Thank you to everyone who organised a ride or went along to support one. Together we lit up the night and called for safer streets and better cycling infrastructure, especially for women riding after dark.

Anne-Marie Goldsmith was one of the glow riders in Newbury, despite losing the ability to cycle independently 28 years ago after a stroke caused by a brain injury. "I accepted that I would never ride a bike again," she said. However, she was convinced by Claire Vincent to join her on the back of a tandem – and she has never looked back. Ms Goldsmith said cycling was "completely liberating",

"Together we lit up the night and called for safer streets and better cycling infrastructure"

and that by taking part in the event, she was doing her bit to promote cycling for women.

In Stevenage, Jennifer Huygen, a member of the local cycle campaign, said she was so fed up with the lack of lighting that she brought it to a council meeting: "I asked 'When will you make it safe? Will you install lighting?' Basically, they questioned whether it was sensible for me as a woman to be there by myself in the dark, and I got really upset by that."

She started a petition, which soon collected 1,300 signatures. That meant the issue had to be discussed at a council meeting. Jill Borchers, another member of the local cycle campaign, said: "Why did we need a glow ride in Stevenage? Because even the best cycleway network is only as good as its weakest links."

Julie Clarke, a spokesperson for InfraSisters, took part in a ride in Edinburgh. "InfraSisters was founded in 2021 to highlight the additional challenges that women cyclists face due to a lack of safe infrastructure, particularly in the evening or night," she said. "Too many women are faced with the choice between cycling on the road and chancing dangerous drivers or using an isolated cycle path and risking personal safety."

For more on 'My ride. Our right', see: cyclinguk.org/my-ride-our-right.



Cycling on the ballot

Next year sees elections in Scotland and Wales, as well as local elections in England. Ahead of this, we're busy writing our own manifestos. These will form the basis of Cycling UK's lobbying of political parties and candidates, as we press them to commit to supporting the issues that matter to cycling. We are already speaking with party manifesto writers and have had some very positive responses. We will be ramping up this work into the new year, pushing all the main parties to acknowledge the things that they can do to give more people the freedom to choose to cycle for everyday journeys. cyclinguk.org/campaigns

→ Leading the way

In October, Cycling UK led two local politicians, Freddie van Mierlo MP and Councillor Ben Higgins, on a ride along Royal Chilterns Way route. We showed them how a great route can do more than connect towns; it can drive local economies and a greener future. cyclinguk.org/peddalling-rcw