

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CYCLING UK'S WORLD

# QUICK RELEASES



## VOTE BIKE

It's election time for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – and an opportunity to get cycling on the devolved countries' agendas, says **Sam Jones**

**THE UK GOES** to the polls again this summer. Before the EU Referendum in June, there will be elections for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies, as well as for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and for local councillors and mayors. It's an opportunity to press all candidates for their support for cycling. There's a common theme: funding.

In Scotland, MSP candidates are being asked by campaign group We Walk, We Cycle, We Vote and by Cycling UK to pledge their support to provide sustained, long-term investment in both cycling and walking that reaches at least 10% of the transport budget. This funding for cycling and walking will help create the conditions for two further pledges: building and maintaining dedicated cycling infrastructure, enabling people aged 8-80 to cycle; and promoting and delivering safer roads. Check out your potential representative's views online at: [www.walkcyclevote.scot/candidate-info](http://www.walkcyclevote.scot/candidate-info).

In Northern Ireland, Cycling UK is supporting local campaigners in asking for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) candidates to lock in annual cycling investment of between £10 and £25 per head of population. Additionally, we're supporting calls for the building of a 600-mile greenway network across Northern Ireland, using predominantly former railways.

In Wales, we're again looking for an annual funding commitment of at least £10 per head for cycling. While Wales has the most progressive and forward-thinking cycling policy in the British Isles, progress in its realisation is hampered by funding. The Welsh Assembly's Enterprise and Business Committee's report 'Active Travel: The Start of the Journey' was published at the end of February and backed Cycling UK's call for funding, calling on the Welsh Government to set up a specific budget line dedicated to supporting active travel.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections take place in England and Wales. Resources for roads policing, both funding and numbers, have been eroding for over a decade. There has been at least a 37% drop in overall police staff on our roads since 2003, while overall cuts to total police numbers over the same period have been 3.5%. Cycling UK sees a visible police presence as one of the best deterrents for illegal driving. We will therefore be asking Police and Crime Commissioners to restore funding for roads policing, so as to improve road safety for everyone and ensure that those who create danger are brought to justice.

**For more information on all of these elections, and details on how you can get involved, visit [cyclinguk.org/votebike](http://cyclinguk.org/votebike)**

## CYCLE SHORTS

### • TRI-VETS: 100 MILES OR 100KM IN 12 HOURS

If you're aged 50 or over and fancy a challenge, Cycling UK's triennial century rides for veterans – the Tri-Vets – take place this June and July. They're non-competitive 'reliability rides' with a lunch stop. You have up to 12 hours to complete a 100-mile or 100km route and all finishers receive a certificate. Entry fees are around £15, although some groups charge less. Visit [cyclinguk.org/ctc-tri-vets-rides-2016](http://cyclinguk.org/ctc-tri-vets-rides-2016) to find and enter an event near you. Early entry is advised as spaces are limited.

### • COXWOLD SUNDAY

The 90th Coxwold Sunday, the Annual Cyclists' Service of thanksgiving at St Michael's Church, Coxwold, near Thirsk and York, is on Sunday 8 May 2016.

The guest speaker is the Rt Revd John Thomson, the Bishop of Selby and an everyday cyclist. There are refreshments in the village hall from noon onwards, and the service is at 1.30pm. The Archbishop of York Dr Sentamu has been invited to call in on his Yorkshire pilgrimage from Whitby to York Minster.

### • YOUNG CYCLE TOURERS

A new grant is available to young people who want to explore the world by bike. The Janapar Grant, founded by bicycle adventurer and travel writer Tom Allen, will provide equipment and mentorship for a young British cycle tourist. It is available to UK residents between the ages of 18-25. The deadline for applications for the 2016 grant is 5pm on Friday 15 April. Visit [janapar-grant.org.uk](http://janapar-grant.org.uk).

### • CLUB SHORTS

■ There will be a formation meeting at 7.30pm on 6 April in the upstairs room of The New Market Tavern in The Hayes, Cardiff, with a view to forming a new Member Group, Spokes CTC. All Cycling UK members are welcome.

■ CTC North Birmingham is holding a Special General Meeting at 10am on 30 April at The Cooper Room in Shenstone to decide if it should remain a Member Group or become an affiliated club.

### • A SOCIABLE END-TO-END

CycleClips Editor Julie Rand and her husband Roland are touring from Land's End to John o' Groats from 15 April to 2 May. If you'd like to meet up en route, email her at: [julie.rand@cyclinguk.org](mailto:julie.rand@cyclinguk.org).