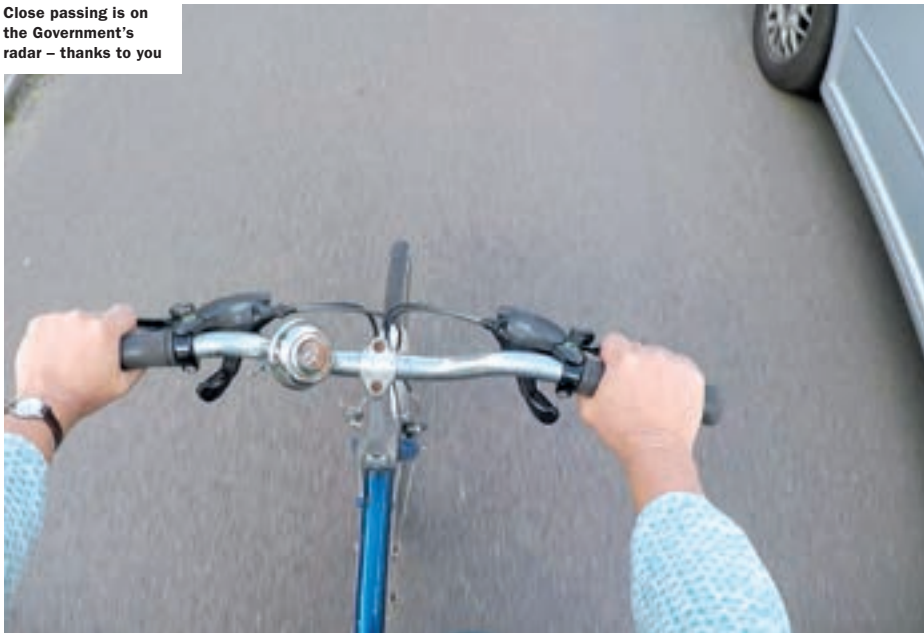


Close passing is on the Government's radar – thanks to you



Left: Luke Stanley

Campaigns

OVERTAKING EXPECTATIONS

Your collective support has been crucial for Cycling UK's campaigning this year, as **Duncan Dollimore** explains

THE LAST FEW months have been so busy on the campaigns front that I was unsure where to start with a summer round-up until I realised the common theme: the incredible support we've received for our campaigns from members and supporters.

Whenever we're trying to influence any organisation, public body, or decision maker, we have to have a credible argument, but being able to state that several thousand people support what we're saying is crucial in ensuring that our voice, and yours, is heard.

This was evident earlier this year when we delivered 9,300 letters to Highways England, objecting to proposals to ban cyclists from the A63, something we and many of you feared would be the thin end of the wedge, setting a dangerous precedent for cycling bans on other roads. The number of responses generated media interest, which in turn provided us with the platform to present our case – though it has meant that Highways England are still ploughing through the responses. That means

we're still waiting to see if they're going to abandon their plans.

CYCLE SAFETY: MAKE IT SIMPLE

Getting support to campaign against illogical proposals to ban something is straightforward – there's a bogey man to focus on and he's planning to do something stupid that affects you, so act now! But when we launched our 'Cycle safety: make it simple' campaign in April, in response to the Government's cycling and walking safety review, we knew it would be harder. We backed the review, so there was no bogey man, and there was a danger that there was nothing dramatic or new to motivate people to respond. But 10,800 of you did via our online action.

Whilst the Government hasn't yet published the outcome of their review, they have confirmed that one key concern raised was close passing. In late June, road safety minister Jesse Norman announced funding for a pilot scheme to improve driving instructors' cycle safety awareness. He also promised additional resources for police forces to enable them to deal with close passes. The proof will be in the pudding, but it's encouraging that the Government is making the right noises – partly because so many of you asked them to support our proposals.

So that's summer 2018: we've been very busy campaigning and, more importantly, so have many of you, and that's what's needed to effect change.



Quick releases



Left: Andy Catlin

PLAY TOGETHER ON PEDALS

Having helped teach more than 8,000 preschool children in Glasgow to ride a bike since 2014, the Play Together on Pedals programme run by Cycling UK, Cycling Scotland, and Play Scotland has now expanded to Edinburgh. Alongside the playful programme offered to children in nurseries, parents and families will be encouraged to give cycling a go through try-out sessions and drop-in activities. Suzanne Forup, Head of Development Scotland for Cycling UK, said: 'We're hoping to help more parents start exploring the city on two or three wheels, encouraging families to leave the car at home for short journeys and enjoy being active together.' Read more at bit.ly/PTOP-Edin.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Cycling UK supported the launch on 2 July of a new nationwide platform that allows footage of dangerous driving to be uploaded directly to police forces across the UK. The National Dash Cam Safety Portal, set up by dash-camera manufacturer Nextbase, provides a single point for cyclists and drivers to report serious road incidents captured on dash, bike, and helmet cams. Previously, incidents had to be reported to individual forces. To submit a video, visit nextbase.com/dashcamportal.

BRITISH CYCLE QUEST SUCCESS

Neil Hemingway from Stockton in Yorkshire is the latest Cycling UK member to visit all 402 checkpoints of the British Cycle Quest. For more, see cyclinguk.org/british-cycle-quest.

The day finished with a cycling tour of Manchester



Left and below left: Joolze Dymond. Right: Chris Juden

Events

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

This year's festival kicked off in the 'suffragette city' of Manchester on 30 June. **Victoria Heywood** was there

TITLED 'FROM BLOOMERS to Baggies and Beyond', the Manchester conference brought together a diverse group of women (and a number of men) from across the cycling world, including many of this year's 100 Women in Cycling. A century on from the Representation of the People Act, the overarching theme of the day was 'Cycle Liberation': how the bicycle has given freedom to women, and will continue to do so in different ways.

In the first of the day's three keynote speeches, mountain bike guide Aneela McKenna took us back to the cycling suffragettes. On a more personal level, she then discussed the changes she had seen herself, her voice breaking as she described the first time she ever saw a woman on the cover of a mountain biking magazine.

Tiffany Lam then stepped up to share her



academic research into the gender cycling gap, how vast it is in Western, English-speaking countries, and how it can be subtle biases – the language used in cycling infrastructure, for example – that permit it to exist.

The post-lunch food coma was staved off by Eve Holt; she had everyone up to show where they quite literally stood on her topic of cycling optimism. The crowd was asked to share stories of why or why not they were feeling good about the prospects of women in cycling. One such gem: 'I feel optimistic because my daughter is out on her pink bike with attitude!'

Presenter Anna Glowinski and Cycling UK Trustee Jaki Lowe then awarded each of the attending 100 Women in Cycling nominees (a good half of the list) with a card and rosette. Despite the event drawing to a close and heatwave sunshine beckoning, the applause never lapsed.

Taking advantage of Manchester's rich history as a 'suffragette city', the final part of the day was a mass sightseeing ride. Sixty ladies on a whole range of bikes, bells chiming, took to the sunny streets en masse to celebrate inspirational women who have gone before.

It was a great way to launch the Women's Festival of Cycling, which continued throughout July.

Quick releases



140 RIDES FOR 140 YEARS

To celebrate Cycling UK's 140th birthday, we are collating 140 cycling routes across the UK. They all have a strong connection to Cycling UK and will include iconic rides, both on and off-road, that are suitable for a range of cyclists. There will be photos, maps, and GPX files to make the routes easy to find and follow. We will be celebrating our birthday by doing what we have always have done: encouraging and inspiring as many people as possible to go cycling. For more information, see cyclinguk.org/140routes.

BIG BIKE REVIVAL 2018

Tens of thousands of people attended Big Bike Revival events across England and Scotland over the summer, making it one of our most successful ever. In England, around 130 groups delivered more than 1,000 events to get more people cycling. In Scotland, around 90 groups put on more than 400 events – one in every local authority area. It's the fourth year of the Big Bike Revival, which is aimed at inspiring the 42% of people who own bikes but don't cycle to start riding.

BIKE WEEK SUCCESS

More than 750,000 miles were logged by almost 10,000 people as part of Bike Week, which ran from June 9-17. The event, delivered by Cycling UK, is an annual opportunity to promote cycling and show how easily cycling can be built into everyday life. This year's Bike Week was launched at the Dutch Embassy in London by the broadcaster and cyclist Jeremy Vine.

Charlie Smirk of Monty's Bike Hub in Southampton won recognition last year



Cycling development

BIG BIKE CELEBRATION

Cycling UK's October get together this year is in the town of our founding: Harrogate. **Helen Cook** has your invitation

AFTER A FANTASTIC celebration in Birmingham in 2017, our annual get together for 2018 is taking a nostalgic trip back to Harrogate, North Yorkshire, where 140 years ago over 50 'high-wheeler' cyclists were inspired by Stanley Cotterell to travel from all over the country and form the Bicycle Touring Club.

Our fourth annual conference promises to be a superb event, not only returning to the town where we were founded, but celebrating the members, supporters, volunteers, and partners who are at the heart of the cycling movement today. You'll hear about Cycling UK's new Five-Year Strategy, which is being unveiled this autumn, and learn how Cycling UK can support you with tools, motivation and networks to help get the country cycling.



Mick Buckley (left) received his Individual Achievement award from Chris Boardman

We'll also hear from the great and the good in the cycling world, learning how successful campaigns, touring exploits, projects, and clubs are making a real difference in supporting more people to cycle. And of course there will be a bike ride to enjoy.

The Big Bike Celebration is on Saturday 6 October. For further details and to register your attendance, visit cyclinguk.org/bigbikecelebration.

THREE CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Big Bike Celebration is also an opportunity to congratulate and showcase the commitment, passion, and devotion of our volunteers. Cycling UK's Volunteers of the Year Awards spotlight members, community clubs, campaigners, groups and supporters from around the UK.

Do you know a passionate campaigner fighting for cycling? How about a dedicated cycling group who work hard to help their community? Or what about someone special who has overcome barriers and triumphed through cycling? This year's categories will be released soon; make sure you nominate your favourite group, club, or person so their efforts can be rewarded.

More information about our Volunteer Awards and how to make nominations for them is available online: cyclinguk.org/volunteerawards.

Quick releases



SIGN UP TO VELOCHEER

Have you signed up yet for Velocheer, the newsletter for all our volunteers and anybody thinking of becoming one? It's full of news, advice, information, vacancies, and inspiring stories about volunteering for Cycling UK. The four-page newsletter will be sent out quarterly via email to all subscribers, as well as all our registered volunteers. Once subscribed, you can opt out at any time. If you have anything you'd like to include, please contact the editor Julie Rand, julie.rand@cyclinguk.org or visit cyclinguk.org/news/velocheer.

CYCLING UK'S NEW VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY

The new Velocheer newsletter is part of our ongoing commitment to volunteers, as laid out in our new volunteering strategy, The Reason to Velocheer! Covering the years 2018-2023, the document sets out our vision of volunteers being at the heart of everything we do, with an active network of people empowered and united to support more people to cycle. We will do this in three main ways: by improving the experience of volunteers, with better systems, communications, support and culture; by growing the network, with a greater variety of ways to get involved and a more diverse volunteer base; and finally by evaluating the impact of our volunteer network. We will also be looking at how we reward and recognise our volunteers. The full document is online: cyclinguk.org/news/reasonstovelocheer.