

Right: Jooz Dymond



Inspector David Barf of North Yorkshire Police gets a close-pass mat

Road safety

OVERTAKING EXPECTATIONS

Thanks to your donations, we're providing police forces around the UK with close pass mats to deter dangerous overtaking. **Sam Jones** explains

WE LAUNCHED OUR #TooCloseForComfort campaign at the beginning of March with the intention of helping every police force throughout the UK put an end to dangerously close overtaking. That's an ambitious target, but West Midlands Police's 'Give Space, Be Safe' operation showed how it might be achieved.

By sending plain clothes officers out on bikes, and pulling over drivers who passed too closely, West Midlands began an education and enforcement action that changed driver behaviour overnight, and saw a reduction in reported close passes by 50%. Most drivers who overtake too closely do so more through ignorance of the danger than malice. Understanding this, the force began showing drivers how to overtake cyclists safely by means of a 'close pass' mat.

Recognising that other forces wanted to do the same, our campaign aimed to supply at least one mat to every force in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Thanks to 970 members and supporters, we

“West Midlands reduced close passes by 50%”

exceeded our target and raised £14,568 – more than enough to supply all our forces with the means to put an end to close passes.

The fundraising campaign ended mid-April, but ever since we hit our target of £12,000, Cycling UK staff have been pursuing leads throughout the 45 forces, generating interest in close pass initiatives, and most importantly getting addresses for the delivery of the mats. At the time of writing (early May), we've put in an order for 36 mats to be delivered to forces across the four nations and are expecting to see them being rolled out across the country from late May. We're not stopping there, and will look to get every force involved with and connected to their local cycle group.

BAD DRIVERS PUT ON THE MAT

What's been most encouraging from all the forces who have agreed to take us on our offer is their enthusiasm and willingness to address this real problem head on.

PC Hodson of West Midlands Police summed it up: 'The long and short of it is that drivers who pose the greatest threat of harm on our roads need to get their house in order, or we'll do it for them. I hope every other police force will take advantage of this opportunity that Cycling UK and their backers created, and put an end to close passing for good.'

Stay in touch

CYCLECLIPS: free weekly email newsletter – email your membership number to membership@cyclinguk.org
CAMPAIGN NEWS: monthly campaigns bulletin. Sign up at cyclinguk.org/subscribe-to-cycle-campaign-news

Quick releases

MICK MASON DRIVER NOT GUILTY

Gail Purcell, the driver involved in the collision that caused 70-year-old Michael Mason's death, was declared not guilty by a jury after Cycling UK's Cyclists' Defence Fund (CDF) brought a private prosecution. While the verdict was disappointing, we remain convinced that CDF were right to prosecute. In refusing the defence application to dismiss the case, the judge accepted that Ms Purcell should be tried. For details and analysis, see bit.ly/2q1hqq5.

ROAD JUSTICE REPORT

The All-Party Parliamentary Cycling Group published its 'Cycling and the Justice System' report in April. This sets out 14 recommendations, mainly for the Government or the police, to reduce danger on our roads for cyclists and others, and to improve the response of the justice system. For Cycling UK's reaction, see bit.ly/cyclinguk-blog-appcg.

CLAIMING VICTORY

The Government has dropped changes to compensation rules that would have left injured cyclists out of pocket. The proposed small claims limit increase from £1,000 to £5,000 in road traffic cases would have disproportionately affected cyclists' personal injury claims, 70% of which are under £5,000, as claimant's costs are not recoverable in small claims cases. See bit.ly/2q1Awqt.

BOARDING SHORTLY

Do you want to join Cycling UK's Board of Trustees? Applications open soon for positions starting 1 January 2018. See cyclinguk.org/about/cycling-uk-board.



This summer will see over 1,200 Big Bike Revival events



Cycling events

A SUMMER OF CYCLING

Cycling UK has a range of events this summer to entice you and others to get out riding. **Julie Rand** describes some of them

CYCLING UK has teamed up with leading cycle retailer and repairer Halfords in a three-year partnership that aims to help 5.7 million people to cycle more. To that end, we have some fantastic opportunities this summer to inspire you and others to get out riding over the next few months.

BIG BIKE REVIVAL: 6 MAY-18 JUNE

The Big Bike Revival is back! Following a launch event at Resurrection Bikes in Harrogate, over 1,200 revival events are now underway across England and Scotland. The aim of the project is to start people cycling and make sure they keep on cycling: whilst almost half the population is estimated to own a bike, only 15% of Brits cycle regularly. Why? One reason is that not knowing how to fix a puncture or carry out basic maintenance can often mean that their bike ends up locked in the shed or hallway, gathering dust.

The Big Bike Revival, delivered by a network of over 100 bike recycling centres,

community groups and charities, aims to remove this barrier and help people become more active. This year, the target is:

- 50,000 people participating in a BBR event;
 - 25,000 non-regular cyclists (i.e. those that cycle less than once a week) to be cycling more regularly;
 - 15,000 bikes revived;
 - 5,000 experiencing modal shift (i.e. those that weren't cycling to the shops, work, to see family and so on to be now doing so).
- Halfords is supporting the Big Bike Revival by offering free bike services at 434 stores across the UK, helping Cycling UK to really get Britain cycling.

BIKE WEEK: 10-18 JUNE

Cycling UK's Bike Week, run in partnership with Halfords, Cycling Scotland, Cycling Plus, BikeRadar and Cycle to Work Day, is the biggest nationwide cycling event in the UK, with over half a million people taking part in rides and rethinking their everyday journeys to use cycling as the most convenient way

to get around, whether to work, school, shops or visiting friends. This year's theme is 'fun and freedom' with activities taking place all over the country enabling the whole family to get out into the fresh air and enjoy themselves, while keeping fit.

If there's isn't an event in your area, why not put on your own? You can register it for free on the Bike Week website at bikeweek.org.uk.



The theme for Bike Week this year is 'fun and freedom'

Left: Julie Anne Images

Left: Ian Davies



Women's rides will take place across the UK in July

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL OF CYCLING: JULY

Although the number is growing, women currently cycle far less in the UK than men: only around 20% of Cycling UK's members are female and women are hugely underrepresented in cycling as a whole. But they are also the group that has the most to gain from taking part, as women are 36% more likely to be classified physically inactive than men.

In order to help address this gender imbalance in physical activity, Cycling UK's Women's Festival of Cycling is a national celebration that takes place in July. There's a series of rides throughout the UK, aimed at encouraging more women to get in the saddle for the benefit of their mental and physical health, as well as their overall wellbeing. These events could range from 100km road rides at 12-14km/h to shorter, easy-paced rides down country lanes, with plenty of time for cake and coffee. There may also be off-road rides for those who enjoy exploring technical trails.

Cycling UK will be supporting the festival with a range of free goodies for both riders and organisers: the target is 50 events with at least 500 women taking part in total. To find



Riders at the Start of Summertime Challenge Ride. See p48 for more

out more, visit cyclinguk.org/womens-festival or contact Festival Coordinator Julie Rand at julie.rand@cyclinguk.org.

CHALLENGE RIDES SERIES: APRIL-OCTOBER

The Cycling UK Challenge Ride Series is a range of longer distance events put on by our Member Groups from spring to autumn. Summer events include rides in Northumberland and Ayrshire on 4 and 11 June respectively, the Des Radford 100 miler in Swansea on 25 June, the Diss audaxes in Norfolk on 9 July, and the Devon Delight on 16 July. These will be followed by the Tour of the Hills in West Surrey on 20 August and the popular Wild Wales Challenge on 27 August.

Later on, there's Momma's Mountain Views in North Wales on 2 September, Discovering Shropshire's Blue Remembered Hills on 16 September, and the Gridiron 100 on 8 October. The series will finish back where it began in March with Stevenage's Emitremmus Desrever (Summertime Reversed) on 29 October.

All rides are non-competitive and open to anybody who can manage the distances within the times allowed by the event organisers. All finishers will receive a free Challenge Ride Series medal, and if you complete any three rides in the series, you will qualify for a bronze medal; any five will earn a silver one; and, if you complete at least ten events, you will earn yourself a gold Challenge Ride medal. Complete all 16 and a special commemorative medal and certificate will be yours! (Note that there may be a small extra charge for these to cover costs.) Many rides offer their own certificates and medals in addition to these.

For more details of each ride, visit bit.ly/cyclinguk-challengerides2017.

Quick releases

BIG BIKE LEGACY

Ian Richardson, one of Cycling UK's most instrumental staff, has left after eight years with the charity. Through the Big Bike Revival and the Community Cycling Club network he has helped hundreds of thousands of people to take up and keep cycling. He has championed grassroots community cycling and was ahead of the curve in making the case to local authorities for funding to deliver on the Government's aspiration to get the UK cycling. He articulated the case that many would-be cyclists need sustained hands-on support to persuade them to cycle, and not just infrastructure. More recently, the Big Bike Revival was Ian's brainchild, and his compelling evidence convinced the Department for Transport and latterly Transport Scotland to invest over £2,000,000 over the last few summers. For each pound spent the project returns an economic (and health) value of six pounds – great value. The Board thanks him.



YORK RALLY

York Rally returns to the Knavesmire on 24-25 June. Entry and most activities are free, while camping costs from £26 for the weekend. Events include grasstrack racing, Go-Ride skills for children, and led rides into the countryside around York. There's also a trade show, a cycle jumble, and a busy cycle auction. yorkrally.org.

A CYCLING UK SUMMER

As well as Cycling UK's headline events (left), others this summer include: the Gwyl Seiclio Cymru Welsh Festival of Cycling (20-27 July); the New Forest Cycling Week (28 July to 5 August); and the Birthday Rides (7-13 August). Visit cyclinguk.org/uk-cycling-events.

CLUB SHORTS

Walsall Area CTC voted on 24 April to dissolve this Member Group.