

## Chief Executive

# CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

The last two months have seen a string of wins for Cycling UK, thanks to your support. **Paul Tuohy** summarises



**PAUL TUOHY**  
Chief Executive



Paul in Harrogate

Right: Andy Whitehouse

**IT'S BEEN A** whirlwind two months for Cycling UK, and I'm proud that we are continuing to make such an impact on cycling across the country. It's because we have people like you, our members and supporters, who care about transport and recreation in their communities and who know how cycling can help others – both directly and indirectly. We've been standing up for cycling for 140 years, but the last couple of months have really cemented our reputation as the cyclists' champion.

In September Highways England overturned their proposal to ban cycling on the A63 near Hull. This simply would not have happened without the support of

**“The Highway Code will recommend the ‘Dutch Reach’, which reminds drivers to check for cyclists”**

Cycling UK members. Just under 10,000 of you signed our online petition, which exposed the lack of evidence or logic for the ban.

Then came another victory, with the Government announcing proposals to amend the Highway Code. As a way to help prevent car-dooring, it will recommend the ‘Dutch Reach’, where the driver opens their door with their left hand, reminding them to check behind for oncoming cyclists. Having won that argument, there are other improvements to be made. A full review of the Code is long overdue in order to make our roads safer for all. And there's more...

## OVERTAKING EXPECTATIONS

Our Too Close for Comfort campaign notched up another win for Cycling UK. We needed £15,000 to supply UK police forces with VR headsets that will show drivers footage of how to overtake cyclists safely. It took just eight days to raise it! The VR headsets are already being used by West Midlands Police, and we have plans to link up with driving schools too.

All of this came at the end of a cycling summer that was one of the best for years. In a still-warm September, I rode with some of the staff and cycling journalists to the Kent village of Wye along the fabulous North Downs Way. Many perfectly acceptable off-road routes do not permit cycling; improved access is key. We are already working with The Ramblers on trail access in England and Wales, as well as with Living Streets in urban areas.

Walking and cycling are both forms of active travel, which needs to be encouraged, and organisations operating in these areas should work together to further their joint values and objectives. As Chief Executive I am now meeting regularly with The Ramblers, Living Streets, Sustrans, and British Cycling to ensure this happens.

## A RETURN TO HARROGATE

October saw our fourth Big Bike Celebration, with hundreds of members and supporters enjoying a wonderful day in Harrogate – where it all began for us as the CTC 140 years ago. Television and radio presenter Angellica Bell talked about learning to cycle before tackling the incredible challenge of cycling L'Étape du Tour (a stage of the Tour de France!). She had only eight weeks of training. We also heard from Cycling UK member Natalie Wilson, who shared her powerful story about battling a debilitating genetic condition and becoming the first disabled female cyclist to circumnavigate the coastline of Great Britain. Trustee Chair Dan Howard and I then got to sit on a penny-farthing, one of many veteran cycles on display. We were both scared witless by being so high on a bike!

October also brought us to the end of another fiscal year, with record results on the impact we are having as a fledgling charity for cycling. A new five-year plan has begun and four new trustees will join us in the New Year. In the meantime, the clocks have gone back and the mudguards are on. Wrap up, lights on, and let's enjoy the winter come rain or shine.

Thanks for all your help and support.