

# this is cycling UK



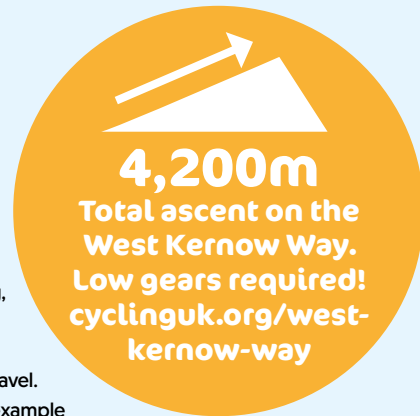
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## Inspiring cyclists

Cycling UK has been helping people to enjoy riding their bikes for 143 years. We couldn't do it without our fantastic volunteers, writes **Sarah Mitchell**



It's now over a century since Coventry CTC brought together keen cyclists in a local social club and started what would turn out to be 101 years (and counting!) of regular rides. This October, after the 2020 occasion was postponed, the club celebrates its centenary-plus-one.

Reading through some of their archive of newsletters it's striking, over all these years, how similar our work as a cycling organisation remains: we're still inspiring people with cycling routes and touring ideas; we're campaigning to secure funding and support for cycling; and we're still helping people from all walks of life to discover cycling for the first time.

This autumn we launched the West Kernow Way, a 230km route around some of the most beautiful and historical areas of Cornwall on quiet roads and tracks. This route is part of our EXPERIENCE project, which is backed by the European Regional Development Fund. It aims to bring off-season income to specific counties by building the cycle tourism trade, and to inspire many more people to take to their bikes in some stunning surroundings. You can plan your trip there with our guide ([cyclinguk.org/west-kernow-way](https://cyclinguk.org/west-kernow-way)), but get in quick as it's flying off the virtual shelves...

The West Kernow Way also aims to highlight the benefits of opening up the countryside by reclaiming lost routes. This campaigning work always has been and remains crucial to our work at Cycling UK.

This year we've seen great success in our election campaigning, securing commitments to cycling from national and local governments in May 2021. Both Wales and Scotland are allocating 10% of their transport spending to active travel.

In Wales the government has committed to a moratorium



The volunteer-run New Forest Cycling Week

on new road building, as well as increased funding and revised guidance for active travel. This sets a powerful example to other nations, and we'll be pressing the Westminster government to underline its own commitment to active travel in the November budget and in relation to COP26 and its plans to achieve net zero.

In Scotland the power-sharing agreement between the SNP and the Greens promises significantly increased spending on active travel and several other key commitments, many of which echo the proposals in our Manifesto for Cycling. We will be furthering our work on getting people into cycling in Scotland through our newest innovative project: Access Bikes ([cyclinguk.org/accessbikes](https://cyclinguk.org/accessbikes)). Working with credit unions to offer interest free loans, we are making owning a bike more accessible to those who need it most.

At Coventry CTC, as in all our member groups, another important element of our heritage is crucial: a dedicated group of volunteers to keep rides going over the years. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our member groups, our campaigns, and our community cycle clubs. In October we're celebrating the vital contribution made by all our many thousands of volunteers.

There will be a special mention for the longstanding group of volunteers who have made CTC Holidays and Tours possible over the past 25-plus years. These tours for members were only possible thanks to the time given by volunteer ride leaders, the volunteer company directors, and others. As the company winds down, we really want to take the opportunity to thank them all on behalf of our members for all the time and energy they have put into the tours.

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Main photo: Peter Cornish

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