

Celebrating people who are passionate about enabling others to cycle



Welcome to the autumn edition of **Velocheer**, the newsletter for all our volunteers. With normality pretty much returning to our lives, it's great to see **so many events** returning in real life, from regular Sunday morning group rides to mass participation sportives and challenge rides like the Gridiron in Wessex to social occasions such as Coventry CTC's centenary dinner.

We hope that many more of you will register your rides on our website so that the calendar will be full of exciting activities encouraging more people to cycle regularly, especially those new to cycling. We are very proud of our new video showing **what it's like on a group ride**, aimed at those people too.

As well as meeting up in real life, of course, we still have on line activities to enjoy. Read on to find out more about our exciting **Volunteer Celebration**, which took place on Saturday 9 October, and the **upcoming webinar with Wheels for Wellbeing** on removing barriers to cycling.

Gjoril Berg
Acting volunteering manager (maternity cover)

Volunteer Celebration 2021



It was lovely to see so many of you joining in our annual virtual **Volunteer Celebration** at the beginning of the month, as both participants and audience. If you didn't manage to make it, you can re-watch the various sessions. They include:

- **Meet our awesome volunteers:** how and why they give their free time to cycling
- **How to welcome new people to your cycling group:** tips from some of our most successful groups on encouraging people from diverse backgrounds to cycle
- **Introducing the Cycle Advocacy Network:** yes, we CAN! How we can all lobby for better conditions for cycling
- **Big Bicycle Quiz and Volunteer Awards:** our fun, interactive quiz hosted by Anna Glowinski and Lorraine Dixon including our Going the Extra Mile volunteer awards 2021

"Those speakers were so good. I had been feeling a little down trodden because everyone is my club are usually all fitter than me but the Volunteer Celebration helped me see things in a new light I think. It certainly encouraged me!" Ali, Southampton

In this issue



- Volunteer of the Season: Biola Babawale
- Club Confidential
- Group of the Season: Burnley & Pendle
- Centenary of Coventry CTC
- Sue says watch our new video
- COPping on to COP26



Join Cycling UK today and claim a free set of Lezyne lights!

#BrighterBikeNights

Club Confidential

Apart from our own **Going the Extra Mile** awards, there are other ways to recognise the enormous contribution made by volunteers and voluntary groups to the world of cycling. For example, the **Sport + Recreation Alliance's Community Sport + Recreation Awards** not only bring greater awareness of the voluntary work performed in the following categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Community Club of the Year
- Inspiration of the Year
- Diversity and Inclusion award
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Development
- Going Green
- Resilience in Adversity

but, in addition, all winners receive £1000! If you'd like to be entered, please **get in touch** for more details.



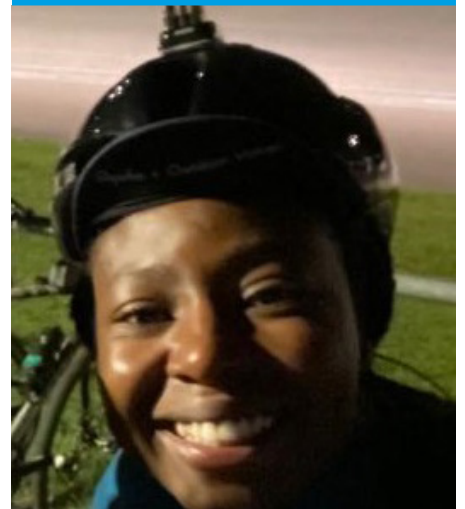
Group of the Season



Congratulations to some of the members of Cycling UK member group Burnley and Pendle CTC, who have recently been given various Going the Extra Mile awards for their long and exceptional service on the group's committee. Their names now appear on our **Roll of Honour**.

Pictured from Back row L to R - Harry Taylor, webmaster Mark Clegg, rights and planning rep Chris Marshall, secretary John Ramsden. Front row L to R - president Jim Duerden, vice president Ian Lowcock with his classic Hetchins bike and treasurer David Tinker.

Volunteer of the Season



One of the inspirational speakers at the Volunteer Celebration, was **Biola Babawale**.

Biola is chair of **Velociposse Cycling Club**, a group particularly aimed at women and non-binary people based in London. She explains how she: **“wanted to give back to a sport that has given me so much confidence, self-belief and amazing friends. I wanted the sport to thrive so more people can make connections and have similar experiences to me.”**

Centenary of Coventry CTC

Cycling UK member group **Coventry CTC** has been around for 100 years this year and is still going strong; the group recently marked the occasion with a celebratory dinner, during which several awards were given out to some of their outstanding volunteers by Cycling UK's Chief Executive Sarah Mitchell.

Pictured with his Gold Lifetime Achievement award and a Going the Extra Mile trophy for the group is Bob Tinley, chair of Coventry CTC.



Sue says

Not far away in Birmingham, and equally successful in recruiting new riders, is the Cobblestone Café Easy Riders community cycling club, which is supported by Cycling UK's Vanessa Morris. The group is led by Sue Cartwright, who took part in the panel discussion at our Volunteer Celebration on [How to welcome new people to your cycling group](#), and also [stars in a new Cycling UK](#) video on the subject that shows the warm welcome given to her riders.

COPping on: tell the world that "this machine fights climate change"

PEDAL ON COP
GLASGOW 6TH NOVEMBER 2021
JOIN US AT THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AT COP26
www.pedalonparliament.org #PedalOnCOP26
REMINDE THE UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE THAT THIS MACHINE FIGHTS CLIMATE CHANGE

COP26 in Glasgow is just a couple of weeks away now. We're encouraging as many of our groups and volunteers as we can to organise or join rides around the UK to add to the clamour and tell global leaders how important cycling is as a solution to fighting climate change. Our [handy guide](#) will tell you all you need to know.



..... Finally...

We now have nearly 200 micro volunteers registered on [our volunteer platform Assemble](#). These volunteers perform short but important tasks supporting our projects and programmes, often from the comfort of their own homes. We also have over 300 Pumped Up volunteers in three different roles so we will shortly be combining them all into one new role called Pumped Up Crew; we will be messaging all our existing micro volunteers and Pumped Up Crew soon to let them know about these changes and the tasks available to them. If you have any queries about this, [please let us know](#).