

Celebrating people who are passionate about enabling others to cycle



I hope you are enjoying some wonderful winter riding now the shorter days are here. I've had a great time out on my bike enjoying the colourful fungi over the past couple of months, it's amazing what you can spot when you're out cycling.

This month's Velocheer should reach you on Sunday 5 December, **International Volunteer Day** #IVD2021, an initiative by the United Nations to "recognise and promote the tireless work, not just of UN volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe". The UN also says: "It is a unique chance for volunteers and organisations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to promote their work within their communities."

The **campaign** slogan is **Volunteer Now for a Common Future** and, as volunteers in cycling, much of your time and effort will certainly help with the UN's aims as well as Cycling UK's mission to enable millions more people to cycle.

Thank you so much for all you are doing to help make the world better by bike and I hope you enjoy a good festive season. Or, as we say in Norway, ha en god ferie!

Gjoril Berg
Acting volunteering manager (maternity cover)

New volunteer roles launched



As we celebrate International Volunteer Day, Cycling UK has plenty of **easy ways** to get involved and #VolunteerNow with us.

For example, we recently launched **some new volunteer roles** to help with running our popular Facebook groups: contributors to our Women in Cycling page, which now has over 6,000 members, and moderators for each of our off-road trail groups: West Kernow Way, Great North Trail and King Alfred's Way.

In addition, we have **relaunched our micro volunteer role as Pumped Up Crew (PUC) volunteers**, with plenty of easy online tasks that can be done in the comfort of their own home. All members of the crew will also be able to order a free PUC T-shirt and/or a mini pump.

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Volunteer of the Season Ron Dalton

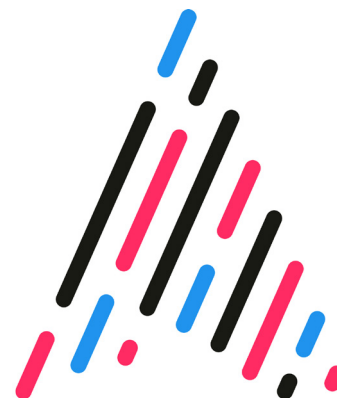
The Cycling UK in Scotland Annual Gathering took place on Saturday 27 November in Stirling. There was a led ride before the gathering, followed by a series of inspiring and informative talks, including a speech by the chief executive of Cycling UK, Sarah Mitchell. Outgoing volunteer Ron Dalton was given a **Certificate of Thanks** for his outstanding efforts. Not only was Ron a committee member in Scotland for at least five years, he has been 'a Cycling UK guru' on the A96 upgrade consultation, and is also apparently the man who invented black Lycra, as modelled in this photo of Teesside CTC's Tri-Vets in 2019 taken by Keith Duncan!

Covid guidance

As the pandemic continues, we are keeping **our coronavirus guidance** for each nation up-to-date. Remember that if you are organising an event for your group, especially indoors, during the festive season, there may be extra precautions you must take such as appointing a Covid officer and undertaking a risk assessment.



Club Confidential Assemble Changes



ASSEMBLE

Assemble, our volunteer platform, is a great way to recruit new volunteers, access news and documents relevant to certain roles, and find and log tasks volunteered. However, we've decided to remove all group volunteer co-ordinators and group volunteers from Assemble from Wednesday 15 December, as we move towards developing more in-house digital tools tailored to the way our groups work. Note that all the training modules and documents for group volunteers such as ride leaders and event organisers will therefore now only be available **on our website toolkits**.



Group of the season Inverclyde Bothy

There are now **five** Cycling UK-led Bothy projects in Scotland aimed at creating happier, healthier communities through walking and cycling. Now, **The Inverclyde Bothy** has been recognised at Paths for All's Volunteer Awards 2021 as the Health Walk Group of the Year. The Bothy was selected from over 300 groups that deliver Health Walks in Scotland.

Congratulations also to Cycling UK affiliate groups **Velociposse**, San Fairy Ann, and Lincoln Wheelers, who have all made the shortlist in **Cycling Weekly's Club of the Year** awards. The winners will be announced from 6 December.

Give your loved one the best Christmas ever and get free gifts

The Christmas countdown has well and truly begun, but you can avoid the stampeding shopping hordes by giving a [Cycling UK membership](#) to a friend or loved one. They'll receive a whole host of benefits, including Cycling UK's bi-monthly magazine, exclusive industry discounts and third-party insurance, plus you'll be helping them to make a better world by bike.

To add to the Christmas cheer, your lucky loved one will also receive a [free cycling goody bag](#), including a set of bike lights and an additional gift of your choice from: a West Kernow Way guide, a Great North Trail guide, and a phone case or socks.

Gifts can be sent to you to give in person, or we can send it directly to your chosen recipient. Enjoy a merry cycling Christmas!



Register your events

Talking of events, don't forget that if you are from a Cycling UK group, you can [register your events and rides](#) on our [UK Cycling Events calendar](#). If you are running a sportive, a challenge event, a regular coffee shop ride or other ride that's open to members of the public, please register them via your group's page. For any queries around this, please contact Tom Page, [our groups engagement officer](#).

Next year, 2022, will see many of our groups running Tri-Vets rides of 100km or 100 miles for cyclists aged 50 or over so don't forget to tick the [Tri-Vets Series](#) box if you are registering a ride in that category. Contact [Julie Rand](#) for more information.



Photo by Andy Whitehouse

The Twelve Rides of Christmas

we are cycling UK



Have an Advent-urous Christmas of cycling

If you're flagging in motivation to get out riding with your group as winter bites, [our top 8 ideas for cycling over the festive season](#) might provide some much-needed inspiration.