



Introduction.

October has seen changeable weather, with named storms leading to cancelled rides over the last week. However, Paul led a successful last Summer Saturday early in October and several members took part in the Glo-Ride around Taunton when it managed to stay dry for the hour or so that the ride took. We can now look forward to winter activities, skittling, Christmas lunch and the AGM and hope to fit in some rides when weather permits.

Something for the politically minded members:

Culture wars. Divisive debates. Rapid political changes. If it feels difficult to make a positive case for cycling now, you're not alone.

How do you approach local politicians who seem to have fundamentally different views to you?

How do you convince sceptical neighbours that making streets better for cycling and walking will improve their lives?

What's the most effective messaging for talking about cycling in a positive, inspiring way?

Cycling UK and Reading Cycle Campaign invite you to join us on Saturday 14 November. Come together in person and connect with others who are trying to make cycling better where they live.

Through expert speakers and interactive workshops, you'll come away with the skills to communicate with confidence.

Spaces are free but limited because of room capacity, so sign up today to grab your spot.

Highlights

- Communication mistakes you didn't know you were making
- How to tailor your messaging to appeal to politicians of different stripes
- How to have conversations about cycling with people who disagree with you
- Connecting with people through storytelling

Event details:

Date and time: Saturday 14 November 2026, 10:00–17:00. Arrive from 09:30 for tea and coffee, we'll get started at 10:00. Location: Reading Civic Centre, Bridge St, Reading, RG1 2LU. Travel: 10-minute walk from Reading train station. Bike parking available. Closest car park is Holy Brook Car Park on Bridge St (this can get busy on Saturdays). Cost: free to attend; voluntary contributions very welcome.

Register here

Received from:

Connor Cashell, Campaigns Officer, Cycling UK. - 07747 608441.

connor.cashell@CyclingUK.org

Ride Etiquette.

- "We never leave anyone behind."
- Stay as a group and be alert to what others are doing.
- Stay in front of the back marker and try to keep to the pace.
- If ahead of the leader, check direction of travel at the next junction.
- Regroup at hills or major junctions, wait off road.
- Ensure riders see changes in direction, signal or wait.
- Pass messages, e.g. poor road surfaces, potholes or other road users.
- Ride two abreast where safe and pull over for other road users.
- Keep a steady pace and warn others if slowing or stopping.
- Follow highway code and country code. Be considerate.
- Riders should have emergency contacts on mobile phones.
- Carry at least a spare inner tube, pump and tyre levers.
- Dress for the weather, wear hi-vis and bring a spare layer.
- Bring a drink and snack + cash for coffee/lunch.
- Bring good lights if any chance of riding in the dark or poor visibility.

(See website for further information.)

The world's best cities for cycling, according to locals

Cambridge, UK



🚲 Cycling score: 83.2 percent

A handful of factors are needed to make a city truly bike-friendly, and Cambridge, the impossibly quaint university city in England, ticks all the right boxes. Firstly, its flat geography and relatively dry weather mean you won't be tackling too many dreaded hills or frequently arriving at your destination completely sodden, which is always a perk. But thanks to the compact nature of the city and innovative urban planning (which includes a massive, multi-story bike park at the station and 'cycle streets') one third of journeys here are taken by bike. No wonder more than 83 percent of the locals we spoke to agree.

2. Montreal, Canada

🚲 Cycling score: 82.5 percent

Okay, so Montreal is famously chilly – and hilly – but with an impressive 82.5 percent approval rating from locals when it comes to cycling, it easily ranks as the most bike-friendly city in North America. Why? Well, a whopping 25 percent of Montrealers used the city's primary bikeshare system, BIXI, in 2023, and thanks to an ambitious infrastructure project – the Express Bike Network or 'EBN' – the network of protected bike lanes (which are cleared of snow in the winter months) will span 171 km. That's on top of the existing 1,083 km of cycleways in the city.

Copenhagen, Denmark



4. Copenhagen

🚲 Cycling score: 79.2 percent

According to Visit Copenhagen, city dwellers in the Danish capital cycle a staggering 1.44 million kilometres on the daily, and that jaw-dropping stat is thanks to decades of smart urban planning. While that obviously includes the vast network of dedicated cycle lanes and off-street paths, it's also thanks to ingenious traffic slowing measures. Sure, there are signs limiting speeds to 20 kilometres per hour, but the use of textured roads and narrow lanes effectively encourages caution when it comes to speed, making the city a much more pleasant place to hop around by bike.

4. Shanghai, China

🚲 Cycling score: 78 percent

Not all cities are slow traffic havens like Copenhagen, and the number of cars and electric scooters which screech along Shanghai's roads is definitely something to be aware of before hopping on your bike. However, 78 percent of locals we spoke to rated the ease with which you can cycle in China's most populous city, and we reckon it's got something to do with the river. Traversing the banks of the Hunagpu is the Pudong Riverside Greenway, a 24km-long car-free path which winds all the way from the Yangpu Bridge to the Xupu Bridge, with glorious city views towering above you the whole way.

5. Vienna, Austria



5. Vienna

 Cycling score: 77.7 percent

The Austrian capital is a pleasant place to enjoy the outdoors, with Vienna also claiming a top-20 spot in our list of the best cities for green space. The central European city brags an expansive 1,800km of cycle lanes, and you can browse them all, as well as spots to fix a puncture or find a pump, on this [interactive map](#). If you're just in town for a few days, make the most of WienMobil Rad, which is the city's bike-share system, operated by city transport authorities.

6. Warsaw, Poland

 Cycling score: 76.6 percent

Another city blessed with mostly flat streets and, therefore, pleasant cycling conditions, Warsaw scored well among local people with an approval rating of 76.6 percent. There's an impressive network of cycling paths, which stretch to around 500km, but the best thing about cycling in Warsaw is how many of the city's landmarks you can tick off en route. Follow the path along the left bank of the Vistula and you'll pass sights such as the Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw University Library (and its roof garden) and the Multimedia Fountain Park.

7. Marrakech, Morocco

 Cycling score: 75 percent

While the higgledy-piggledy streets of Marrakech's treasure-trove medina don't exactly make for a great setting for hopping on your bike, we can't argue with 75 percent of locals. After all, while you probably won't get very far very fast on two wheels in the Old Town's walls, outside is a different story. Gueliz has

wider roads and dedicated bike lanes, and the Marrakech region is an excellent base for bike-packing trips in the Atlas Mountains. Away from the SUV and moped-filled streets of the Moroccan capital are stonking mountain views and peaceful roads, described by one cyclist as 'disconcertingly quiet'.

8. Taipei, Taiwan

 Cycling score: 74.5 percent

While Taipei is another city on this list notorious for busy traffic, clever design has helped it earn a solid 74.5 percent approval rating from locals. Many of the city's cycle lanes are zones shared with pedestrians, who have the right of way, but Taipei's parks and rivers are lined by designated bike paths (which come with gorgeous views thrown in). The five main lanes are Keelung, Tamsui, Jingmei, Xindian and Shuangxi Riverside Bikeways. Head to Taipei's official tourism site for a map of the bikeways and the routes they follow.

9. Stockholm, Sweden

 Cycling score: 73.7 percent

Stockholm is one of those cities that feels like it was made for cycling. Across the hub's fourteen main islands are several cycle lanes, waterfront paths and plenty of green spaces. The Södermalm Island Loop, the Norra Djurgården Loop and the Vaxholm Loop are just some of the most established, which enable you whizz past landmarks, enjoy lovely views of the water, and (the latter specifically) properly venture into the archipelago. There are also handy details that make cycling less of a headache, such as the free air pumps dotted all over Stockholm if you happen to puncture your tires.

10. Seville, Spain

 Cycling score: 72.3 percent

Thanks to its flat terrain and estimated 180km of bike lanes, the Andalusian capital is one of Spain's most cycling-friendly cities. Some of Seville's must-see landmarks, like the Plaza de España and the Real Alcázar, are connected by an expansive bike lane network, making hopping on a bike one of the best ways to go sightseeing. But that 72.3 percent approval

rating from locals is also likely thanks to how well-integrated cycling is into the city's infrastructure: there are urban greenways, a vast bike-share rental system called SEVici with lots of docking stations, and traffic lights at junctions that are specifically for cyclists.

11. Seoul – 72.2 percent
 12. Medellin – 71 percent
 13. Rotterdam – 69.3 percent
 14. Helsinki – 69.3 percent
 15. Abu Dhabi – 69.2 percent
 16. Orlando – 68.7 percent
 17. Frankfurt – 65.3 percent
 18. Luxembourg – 64.7 percent
 19. Ljubljana – 64.4 percent
 20. Brasilia – 64.4 percent
- (from Time Out)

The Glo Ride.



The event was organised by the Taunton Area Cycling Campaign (TACC).

The 'My Ride Our Right' campaign highlights how concerns about safety, intimidating behaviour from drivers and inadequate cycling infrastructure can discourage women from cycling, particularly during darker evenings. TACC was one of many groups taking part in UK-wide 'glow rides' on October 22, as part of

Cycling UK's 'My Ride, Our Right' campaign. In Taunton, nearly 30 people came out to cycle around the town, despite the weather. Bedecked with fairy lights, reflective clothing, bells, and lights galore, we bedazzled the town in our convoy of bikes.



Use of the Club Trailer

The club trailer is used 5 or 6 times each summer. It can provide the opportunity to explore further afield than the normal start and finish in Taunton. If you fancy going somewhere new that is too far for a day ride from Taunton then book the trailer – email Graham Farrington via the website communication. The trailer can be towed by any member with a tow hitch provided their insurance covers the trailer. Although the trailer can be covered by the driver's insurance, it is prohibitively expensive to cover the bikes too (last quote was £1,000 per trip!). It is suggested that individuals should cover their bikes under their house and contents insurance.



The Trailer during the recent refurbishment with hoops to secure the bikes.

The trailer will take 10 bikes and there will be a requirement to transport the cyclists – probably in 3 vehicles. This may be achieved by those who can take their bikes in their car and give a lift to a couple of passengers or by those who load their bikes on the trailer and then take their car. The event form has a tick box available for booking a trailer space which can be added when creating the event along with the information on names and numbers requested. The trailer paid for itself some time ago and thus the only cost is the petrol (or e-power) for the cars travelling. This is best agreed beforehand with a small charge to the participants; the amount will depend on the distance travelled (probably no more than £5). It may take a little extra thought and planning but the opportunity to visit pastures new can be very rewarding.

Weds 4th November

6.30 Skittles Evening, New Inn, Halse
(Food TBC).

Weds 9th December

6.30 Committee Meeting.

7.30 – 8.45 Annual General Meeting and
Awards Evening 2026

Fri 11th December 12.45 Christmas Meal,
Quantock Restaurant, Taunton.

Suggestions for future editions are always
welcome.

Deadline for submission of articles, ideas
or photos is Thursday 26th November;
anything of personal, local or national
cycling interest is always welcome.

Send to: neil.liz.rudram@gmail.com



Graham's winning pothole, can anyone beat it!