

Opinion Letters

THIS MONTH ALL-ABILITY CYCLING, E-BIKE SOLUTIONS, BIKES ON TRAINS, BIKES FOR SMALL WOMEN, AND MORE

Get in touch

LETTERS are edited for space, clarity and, if necessary, legality. The editor reads and acknowledges all members' letters but publishes only a selection and doesn't enter into correspondence. Feedback for the next issue must arrive by 31 October. Please include your membership number.

WRITE TO: Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ or email editor@cyclingsuk.org



Neil Russell and Buster the dog near Ballekine, Arran

Letter of the month

Left: Jess Paul

Access for all

I read Neil Russell's Hebrides by Hand article with great interest. What a journey! I've done the round-Arran ride on a tadpole recumbent – I'm a wheelchair user who can, to a point, use crutches. Neil's point about carrying the other mobility paraphernalia is right. Without a trailer, where do you put the crutches and the wheelchair? I didn't camp; I cheated and stayed in a B&B overnight with a host who went to the extra mile to support a disabled rider.

Kate Ball's active travel article also made for interesting reading. Infrastructure is a real challenge. We have a fabulous coastal path from Dolgellau to the sea, then across the Barmouth Bridge. The rub is that I can't do it on my own as there are gates at various intervals.

I've been fortunate that, in most cases, others will offer help if needed – and then engage you in a detailed discussion about recumbents and their technical specifications! There have, however, been plenty of times when I have had to admit defeat by turning round and retracing my steps.

I have often had conversations with park rangers and other countryside staff about how making a minor modification would make an area so much more accessible. So there is hope yet.

Andrew Ebben

Win a Green Oil bike care kit worth £64.99

The letter of the month wins an Eco Rider Deluxe set, courtesy of Green Oil. Green Oil's plant-based lubes and cleaners are fully biodegradable and contain no PTFE. The kit comprises: Green Oil Wet Chain Lube; Ecogrease; Green Clean Bike Cleaner; Clean Chain Degreaser; FSC Drive Chain Brush; two Bike Armour cable-rub protectors; an EcoRag; a reusable plastic tub for water or storage; and some seeds to grow your own food! For details, or to order Green Oil products, visit green-oil.net



Charge point

The letter about e-bike battery fires in the Aug/Sep issue was timely. I have converted my late father's 1970s' Raleigh tourer into a e-bike and it has proved to be a very useful machine.

I had concerns about the battery. Although it appears to be robust, I believe it should be protected as much as possible from damage and/or the elements. To this end, when the battery is off the bike I store it in a Lipo battery bag (from Amazon). I also place the battery in this during the recharging process in case there is a problem. It gives me peace of mind and is surely better than leaving the battery exposed.

Kevin Harvey

E-as-y does it

Wanting to ride further and with less stress on my knees, I had been toying with the idea of an e-bike. Instead I bought a conversion kit from Cytronex after trying a friend's. I liked being able to remove the battery and cycle normally, unaided, on shorter rides.

The Cytronex C1 kit is slightly more expensive (£995) than some e-bike kits, though it's less expensive (and less powerful) than an off-the-peg e-bike. A single battery charge lasts me from 30-40 miles. I am converted by this conversion kit and now go for longer rides, much more easily and slightly faster than before, and I go up ascents on routes previously avoided.

Bob Broad