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Founded in 1878



FROM THE EDITOR

ONE OF THE BEST things about cycle touring, whether on road with panniers or off-road with bikepacking bags, is the sense of leaving it all behind – literally and figuratively. At home, you're surrounded by stuff: physical stuff and stuff you need to do.

On your bike, it's so much simpler. You go from here to there. There's little to think about except what you're going to eat and where you're going to lay your head. If you want to change your mind about anything – stopping here for a bit, going there instead – you're not prevented from doing so by the weight of routine that pervades the working week.

Anyone who has toured by bike will know this sense of freedom. And it looks like the cycle industry is cottoning on to it too. I don't mean that we'll suddenly see a vast influx of new touring bikes, but walking around bike shows these past months, I was struck by the number of 'adventure related' products. Adventure road bikes were everywhere. There were mountain bikes with bikepacking bags on them. Touring cycling, of a lightly-loaded kind, seems to be increasingly cool.

Not that being fashionable matters. But it's interesting to see more people discovering that adding bags to a bike is, ironically, a way to enjoy yourself without some of life's usual baggage.

Dan Joyce
EDITOR



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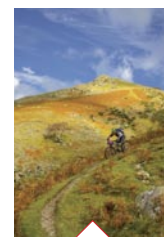


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On the cover
Ed Oxley riding down Stanah Gill bridleway on the flanks of Helvellyn. Photo © Benji Haworth

CTC, Parklands, Raiton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX E: cycling@ctc.org.uk W: ctc.org.uk T: 0844 736 8450 or 01483 238300 (national office) 0844 736 8451 or 01483 238301 (membership dept)

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Advertising: Anna Vassallo tel: 020 7079 9365 e: annav@jppublishing.co.uk **Creative Director:** James Houston
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