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Cover: Cara Coolbaugh touring in the Shetlands, by Cass Gilbert



{ FROM }
THE EDITOR



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MONEY MIGHT make the world go around but you don't need much of it to keep your wheels turning. You can enjoy cycling at almost any income level. If you've got the money, there's always something to spend it on – principally, more bikes! But if you haven't, close the web page, catalogue or magazine and go and ride your bike. Any bike.

As long as it's functional and comfortable, it'll take you anywhere. Spending time on your bike gives a bigger payback than spending money on it. It's quite possible, if you're thrifty enough, to cycle around the world on less than £5 a day. Or you could cycle coast-to-coast and back for just the cost of your food and accommodation.

Whether you could cycle from Land's End to John o' Groats, starting with no money, equipment, clothes or even a bike is open to debate. But George Mahood and his friend Ben did. Turn to page 42 to find out how.

Their trip is a salutary reminder that cycling, particularly cycle touring, isn't about what bike you've got (or haven't got); it's about what you do with it, where you go on it. While I wouldn't swap the bikes I've got now for the bike I did my first cycle tour on, a battered 5-speed BSA racer with throw-over nylon panniers, that tour was as enjoyable as any I've done since. It's only about the bike if you want it to be.

Merry Christmas and a happy cycling New Year.

DAN JOYCE



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Left by Joelle Dymond