



FROM THE EDITOR

ALMOST THREE decades separates the first and most recent cycle tours I began aboard a North Sea ferry. Both are memorable because, like any tour, they had none of the distractions of the everyday. I was free to watch the sun set on the ship's wake, to feel the thrum of its engines in the dark, to anticipate the next morning's ride in a foreign country.

Between the 1980s and the 2010s, some things had changed. The limiting factor for the earlier trip was money; for the latter, time. It was nice, nursing middle-aged aches and pains, to spend the night in a cabin rather than on a couchette. It was a relief not to feel forced to camp in sub-zero conditions or live off baked beans as a way to eke out cash – although I don't recall either even registering on the earlier trip. It was rewarding to be travelling with one of my sons, who was the about the same age I was on the earlier trip when I toured alone.

Other things hadn't changed. My bike, locked to a rail on the car deck, was still a rigid, steel mountain bike, albeit a different one. And setting off on both trips felt the same. Each time there was that sense of freedom, of domestic and professional cares receding into the distance. However you do it, getting away by bike offers a rare gift: mindfulness. It's why touring holidays are unforgettable.

DAN JOYCE
Cycle editor



Clockwise from far left: Neil Wheadon, Ed Stroote, Dan Joyce

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