

FROM THE EDITOR

GETTING AWAY by bike is a great way to recharge your batteries. Your own, that is. Those of any devices you take with you seem to deplete faster than ever. For although battery technology has improved, the batteries have shrunk and more is being asked of them. Colour screens and GPS have a cost.

This power-point anxiety didn't exist in the past. On my first tour, the only battery I had was in my watch, and its life could be measured in years. The AA cell in the tiny radio I took after that kept on going like the bunny in the advert, and was easily replaced when it died. Even my first iPod, used judiciously, would last for several days.

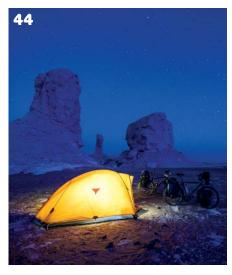
Today's smartphone often goes flat within a day.

I suppose I could leave it at home but it's so useful! On my last tour, its GPS put us back on track whenever we lost our way. Its access to the internet found us places to eat and trains to catch. It could 'speak' foreign phrases. It was a jukebox and a library. It took photos. And, of course, it was a phone.

While it would be frustrating to leave the smartphone at home, its wall-socket dependence, which left me fretting about where its next hit of electricity was coming from, was frustrating too. It undermined the sense of freedom and self-sufficiency that touring brings. As a temporary fix, I've taken to carrying a backup battery. But there's a better solution, as Richard Hallett makes clear on page 44...



DAN JOYCECycle editor







Contents

Membership Get five years'

Stevens, Dan

Get five years'
membership
for the price of
four. Phone 01483
238301

EVERY ISSUE

04 BIG PICTURECycling UK's Rides of Way report

07 FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Spread the word, says Paul Tuohy

09 CYCLE SHORTS

British Cycle Quest organiser Jeff Eaves, Michael Bonney's electric quadricycle, Jon Snow on local elections, and more

26 SHOP WINDOW

Interesting products coming soon

28 GEAR

Components and accessories reviewed

35 LETTERS

Your feedback on Cycle and cycling

59 Q&A

Your technical, health and legal questions answered

76 CONTACTS

How to get in touch

81 TRAVELLERS' TALES

Cycling UK members' ride reports

THIS ISSUE

20 AGM AGENDA & MINUTES

Motions for the AGM in May, plus minutes from last year's

38 THE ROAD TO IRAN

Two teenagers conclude their Silk Road expedition from China

44 TAKE CHARGE ON TOUR How to keep your electronic devices

How to keep your electronic devices topped up by dynohub

52 SPRING IN THE NORTH

Bikepacking Northumberland's Sandstone Way

64 ROAD PLUS BIKES

Fat-tyred 650B bikes for 'any road' riding

71 BIKE BAGS & BOXES

Four ways to take your bike by 'plane

76 MEMBER GET MEMBER

Win a mug by recruiting a friend or colleague



ON THE COVER

Get Gorge-ous riders in Cheddar Gorge last year, by Joolze Dymond



Founded in 1878



Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX E: cycling@cyclinguk.org W: cyclinguk.org T: 0844 736 8450* or 01483 238300

Cycle promotes the work of Cycling UK. Cycle's circulation is approx. 51,000. Cycling UK is one of the UK's largest cycling membership organisations, with 67,000 members and affiliates Patron: Her Majesty the Queen President: Jon Snow Chief Executive: Paul Tuorly, Cyclists' Touring Club, a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England No 25145, registered as a charity in England and Wales Charity No 1147607 and in Scotland No SC042541. Registered office: Parklands, Railton Road, Guildford, GU2 9JX. CYCLE MAGAZINE: Editor: Dan Joyce e: cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk Designers: Simon Goddard, Mary Harris Advertising: Anna Vassallo tel: 0203 859 7100 e: annav@jpublishing.co.uk Creative Director: James Houston Publisher: James Pembroke. Cycle is published six times per year on behalf of Cycling UK by James Pembroke Publishing, 90 Walcot Street, Bath, BA1 5BG. Tel: 01225 337777. Cycle is copyright Cycling UK, James Pembroke Publishing and individual contributors. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission from Cycling UK and James Pembroke Publishing is forbidden Views expressed in the magazine are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the policies of Cycling UK. Advertising bookings are subject to availability, the terms and conditions of James Pembroke Publishing, and final approval by Cycling UK. Printed by: Precision Colour Printing, Haldane, Halesfield 1, Telford, TF7 4QQ. Tel: 01952 585856

*0844 numbers are 'basic rate', costing under 5p/min plus your phone company's access charge on a BT landline.

Other providers may charge more.