



FROM THE EDITOR

OUT WITH FRIENDS, the subject of getting across London between railway stations crops up. Evidently the Tube – that claustrophobic warren smelling of dust, grease, and people – isn't always great to use.

'I just cycle it,' I say.

'Aren't you worried about cycling in London?' It's the first response, a variation on the theme: I'd like to cycle but it's too dangerous.

I wasn't worried, I said, and explained why: there are plenty of backstreets to use; the traffic is slow moving even on the main streets; and with cycling's rising popularity in the capital, there's better provision for cycling and better awareness of cyclists than in most towns and cities in the UK.

I listed some of the positive reasons for city cycling. It's fast and reliable. It's cheap. It's free exercise that wakes you up. Only later did I realise that I'd missed an important one that I took for granted: it's fun – even in London, with its busy roads and bad air.

There's still that sense of satisfaction in being self-propelled, in pushing the pedals, in steering where you want to go. There's something existentially fulfilling about riding a bike, which Robert M Pirsig captured neatly (albeit talking about motorbikes): '[In a car] You're a passive observer and it is all moving by you boringly in a frame. On a cycle the frame is gone. You're completely in contact with it all. You're *in* the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming.'

DAN JOYCE
Cycle editor



CW from far left: Dave Barber, Josie Dew, Victoria Hazael

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Founded in 1878



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