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Welcome

One silver lining in the grim cloud that is Covid-19 is the number of people who have rediscovered cycling. Reduced traffic levels have made the roads less intimidating. And cycling has been Government endorsed as daily exercise.

New and returnee cyclists – families, furloughed employees, teenagers, older people – have taken to the local lanes. Some are on shop-fresh bikes, others on older machines pressed into service after years of neglect; I came across two cyclists with broken chains in the same week. (I fixed them.)

It's been a strange time to be a cyclist. On the one hand, social rides have been suspended. On the other hand, solo rides have been like trips back in time. We've been able to enjoy cycling on once-busy A-roads. Exhaust fumes have been replaced by the scents of spring growth. Traffic's pervasive drone is largely gone. In its place: birdsong.

Let's not kid ourselves that this is a cycling utopia. The pandemic has had a devastating impact on the health, lives, and finances of people across the world. Yet the lockdown has offered proof of what cycle campaigners have long argued: more people will get on bikes when they feel it's safe to do so; and life outdoors is so much better with fewer cars on the roads. Is it too much to hope that, at the end of all these rainbows, there's a golden future for cycling?

DAN JOYCE
Cycle Editor

Coronavirus
For updated advice regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, visit: cyclinguk.org/coronavirus



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