Welcome

With the lockdown easing, our horizons are expanding. No longer must bike rides be solo affairs: we can ride with friends for fun. Social cycling is back. Longer weekend rides are again on the agenda. And many of us will be starting to look further ahead than that - mulling over cycling holidays to come.

As I write in early July, there's talk of 'air bridges' between countries in Europe. How airlines will manage social distancing in the cramped confines of a 737 remains to be seen. Also up in the air, as it were, is whether there will be changes in the public's attitude toward flying.

For one thing, there's the perception of risk. Who hasn't at one time caught a mere cold on the flight home? Then there's the question of whether we want to fly as much. The new normal has been "not jetting off anywhere". For some, that might stick.

But if we choose not to fly with our bikes, how practical are the alternatives? Everyone knows it's possible to get to the Mediterranean by train, ferry, and/or cycling. But is it a realistic prospect or an expensive exercise in frustration tolerance?

There's a sense in some quarters that 2020 hit the reset button - that things might be different now. For local travel, we can all hope that cycling has a bigger role to play; see page 48. For trips further afield, perhaps we've passed peak plane travel? Read the article on page 40 and see what you think.



DAN JOYCE Cycle Editor

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james**pembroke**



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CYCLE MAGAZINE: Editor: Dan Joyce E: cycle@jamespembrokemedia.co.uk Head of Design: Simon Goddard Designer: Katrina Ravn Advertising: Harvey Falshaw T: 020 3198 3092 E: harvey,falshaw@jamespembrokemedia.co.uk Publisher: James Houston. Cycle is published six times per year on behalf of Cycling UK by James Pembroke Media, 90 Walcot Street, Bath, BAI 5BG. T: 01225 337777. Cycle is copyright Cycling UK, James Pembroke Media, and individual contributors. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission from Cycling UK and James Pembroke Media 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 Media, and final approval by Cycling UK. Printed by: William Gibbons & Sons Ltd, 26 Planetary Road, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3XB T: 01902 730011 F: 01902 865835

