Opinion

Letters

THIS MONTH ALL-ABILITY CYCLING, E-BIKE SOLUTIONS, BIKES ON TRAINS, BIKES FOR SMALL WOMEN, AND MORE

Letter of the month

Access for all

I read Neil Russell’s Hebrides by Hand article with great interest. What a journey! I’ve done the round-Arran ride on a tadpole recumbent – I’m a wheelchair user who can, to a point, use crutches. Neil’s point about carrying the other mobility paraphernalia is right. Without a trailer, where do you put the crutches and the wheelchair? I didn’t camp; I cheated and stayed in a B&B overnight with a host who went to the extra mile to support a disabled rider.

Kate Ball’s active travel article also made for interesting reading. Infrastructure is a real challenge. We have a fabulous coastal path from Dolgellau to the sea, then across the Barmouth Bridge. The rub is that I can’t do it on my own as there are gates at various intervals.

I’ve been fortunate that, in most cases, others will offer help if needed – and then engage you in a detailed discussion about recumbents and their technical specifications! There have, however, been plenty of times when I have had to admit defeat by turning round and retracing my steps.

I have often had conversations with park rangers and other countryside staff about how making a minor modification would make an area so much more accessible. So there is hope yet.

Andrew Ebben

Win a Green Oil bike care kit worth £64.99

The letter of the month wins an Eco Rider Deluxe set, courtesy of Green Oil. Green Oil’s plant-based lubes and cleaners are fully biodegradable and contain no PTFE. The kit comprises: Green Oil Wet Chain Lube; Ecogrease; Green Clean Bike Cleaner; Clean Chain Degreaser; FSC Drive Chain Brush; two Bike Armour cable-rub protectors; an EcoRag; a reusable plastic tub for water or storage; and some seeds to grow your own food! For details, or to order Green Oil products, visit green-oil.net

Charge point

The letter about e-bike battery fires in the Aug/Sep issue was timely. I have converted my late father’s 1970s’ Raleigh tourer into a e-bike and it has proved to be a very useful machine. I had concerns about the battery. Although it appears to be robust, I believe it should be protected as much as possible from damage and/or the elements. To this end, when the battery is off the bike I store it in a Lipo battery bag (from Amazon). I also place the battery in this during the recharging process in case there is a problem. It gives me peace of mind and is surely better than leaving the battery exposed.

Kevin Harvey

E-asy does it

Wanting to ride further and with less stress on my knees, I had been toying with the idea of an e-bike. Instead I bought a conversion kit from Cytronex after trying a friend’s. I liked being able to remove the battery and cycle normally, unaided, on shorter rides.

The Cytronex C1 kit is slightly more expensive (£995) than some e-bike kits, though it’s less expensive (and less powerful) than an off-the-peg e-bike. A single battery charge lasts me from 30–40 miles. I am converted by this conversion kit and now go for longer rides, much more easily and slightly faster than before, and I go up ascents on routes previously avoided.

Bob Broad