

## ISLABIKES BOWS OUT



You will know Islabikes is ceasing production – see [islabikes.co.uk/pages/cease-of-sale](http://islabikes.co.uk/pages/cease-of-sale). In my view they have provided a remarkable

service in improving bikes for children and for 'non-standard size' adults.

I hope Cycle will be able to carry some kind of tribute to Isla Rowntree and what she has achieved. You may already have this in hand.

**Michael Willmot**

*I've already spoken to Isla about doing something. It's a huge shame to see such a forward-thinking bike company close. But what a legacy! Islabikes galvanised the wider industry into making proper children's bikes.*

## A WONDERFUL COMPANION



Fifteen years ago, having seen how unsteady my wife was on her own bike, we decided to try a tandem. My wife loved

it and we bought our own. I was the captain (front rider) and used to say it was the only time I was in charge.

Over the next six years we raised almost £50,000 doing charity rides in the Canadian Rockies, Poland, Egypt and Wales. We chose cancer charities as my wife had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004. Unfortunately her cancer returned in 2013. She sadly passed away on Valentine's Day in 2014.

I held onto the tandem for nine years before I had the heart to sell it. I was so pleased to let it go to a young couple who had just graduated from university and were going to take a year out cycling around the world. My late wife would have been so pleased, especially as they will be keeping me informed of their adventures via Facebook. So a very happy ending to a wonderful tandem.

**Tony Pelham**



Anniversary riding

## CENTENARY CYCLING

Blackburn & District CTC have been celebrating their centenary this year, with special rides including a 100km event for the more experienced riders, and a 100-minute ride for families and new members.

We've produced a special centenary club magazine. There is an ongoing quest called the Blackburn Hundred, on the lines of the BCQ but set entirely in Lancashire. Our clubroom at Rishton Methodist Church will be open most Thursday nights during the winter and next spring, with picture shows and other events, while this year's Christmas party will be fancy dress, celebrating 100 years of cycling. For more information, please see our website: [www.blackburncycling.club](http://www.blackburncycling.club).  
**Tony Stott**

## THREE-WHEELED BALANCE

As a member, I know Cycling UK is keen to develop inclusivity. But the magazine tends to pay lip service to the difficulties faced by riders of non-standard cycles. There were several articles in the latest edition that highlighted various forms of trikes but while access problems were mentioned they were not developed. Same with the features on rides. The Glasgow-Edinburgh C2C looks great, but what does a non-standard rider do when they reach those "giddy, narrow-pathed, cobbled viaducts"?

All the action photos (not to mention adverts) are of two-wheelers hammering along singletrack or tarmac. Would it not be possible for articles on ride routes to mention accessibility issues for non-standards?

Just to say, this Oct/Nov edition was one of the most interesting this year.

**Graham Hewitt**

## Photo of the month

### NEVER TOO OLD



Rereading my June/July issue, I spotted the photo on p32 about 92-year-old Donald Wells. It's good to see him still at it. My wife and I bumped into him in 2019 at a campsite in Tarascon on the Rhône; he had almost finished his trip from its source in the Swiss Alps to the Med. I took this photo as he was about to set off.  
**Mike Watson**

## CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other members at [forum.cyclinguk.org](http://forum.cyclinguk.org). Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: [cyclinguk.org/mudflaps](http://cyclinguk.org/mudflaps)



### MUDFLAPS: WHAT DO YOU USE?

**mattscm:** What do you lot use to make additional mudflaps for mudguards? For the front I use damp-course plastic. For the rear I use reflective plastic often found wrapped around electricity poles.

**Brucey:** After years of cutting up random bits of rubber/plastic I now suspect that the answer is to make the mudflap from suitable cloth [e.g. brolly fabric] and to weight/stiffen the lower edge with a piece of old spoke.

**PT1029:** I use lorry innertube. Only hangs straight if you use sections from the centre of the tube. I'm running low; I must use the A34 cycle track to see if any more cast-offs have appeared.

**cycleruk:** Damp-proof course, ice-cream

carton, plastic bottle, etc. All cut to shape and usually pop-riveted on. **slowster:** I use damp-proof course, but I like a long mudflap and DPC can be too flexible in long lengths.

**rjb:** Duct tape built up is a simple, quick solution. **iansud:** Sections that I cut out from large plastic plant pots – the sort that plants from garden centres come in. They can be softened with a heat gun to shape.

**cylop:** Plastic from the larger bleach bottles. Last forever **Steve:** Kitchen lino. **andrew\_s:** For the front, I use half of a rubber hot water bottle.

**TrevA:** You can make a decent rear mudflap out of an Ass Saver mini mudguard. Certainly more useful than its original intended purpose.