



Even though I am now the owner of a (touch wood) reliable motor vehicle, I still reach for the Benno whenever possible. Three and a half years on, there's now a total of 6,600km on the clock. My 14-year-old is still within the rear rack's weight limit but the 16-year-old is, strictly speaking, too big to ride pillion. Not that it's stopped us... when her friends aren't there to see.

A recent bonus use has been added: the 14-year-old can now legally ride the Benno to run errands. Tasks like nipping down the (20% grade) hill for milk can now be delegated, and the novelty of riding the cargo bike makes the chore fun. A whole new level of parenting win has been unlocked!

Riding the Benno is like having a puppy: someone always wants to know more about it, and I'm always happy to tell them how great it is. It makes every errand easy, and time on a bike is always a mood lifter. It is one of the greatest things I've ever bought.

#### **RICHARD SCRASE** Producer/writer, Oxford

In autumn 2022 we moved to Trondheim in Norway for two years. My wife had a job at the university, while I continued to work online for my job in the UK. We hardly used our car in Oxford so we sold it before we moved. To begin with I took our daughter, Freya, to school by bus in Trondheim. I was a bit apprehensive about cycling on snow.

After a few weeks I spotted a secondhand Riese und Müller longtail e-cargo bike for sale. We'd had electric

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bikes before so I knew its Bosch battery and motor system were reliable. This model also had an Enviolo hub gear that required no maintenance – another advantage in snow. Most importantly, the bike came with huge 70-litre panniers. The family I bought it from had used it to take their two boys to school for some years but they had outgrown it, so it was ready to be passed on.

It came with winter tyres fitted, plus another pair of tyres for the summer. Soon I was taking Freya to school on it, relishing the climb up to the view of the fjord and the snow-covered hills beyond. The panniers swallowed school bags, ice skates, violins and all the rest. Freya usually sat with her feet inside the bags to help keep warm. We cycled throughout both winters, even when temperatures dropped to -20°C. Trondheim has 200 kilometres of cycle track kept pretty clear of snow. They're part of a city transport strategy that aims to have 8% of journeys made by bike all year around.

It was such a nice bike that we decided to bring it back to Oxford at ▶



**Clockwise from top left:** The heavily laden Tern Oryx, near Machynlleth, before setting off on the Traws Eryri. On the Traws Eryri, near Arthog. Richard and Freya doing the school run in a Norwegian winter on a Riese und Müller longtail. The countryside is at its best when it's not behind glass

