

## Over to you

now embracing 'beausage'. Having an old, reliable, possibly even iconic bike, I'm sometimes approached by other cyclists enquiring after the age of the bike. Often we get talking about their cycling past, touring on their Claud Butler or other such classic. In other words, my bike engages 'real' cyclists.

I have yet to be approached by a hipster cyclist, possibly because my everything road bike and I don't look the part!

*Douglas Hope*

### West Highland ways ↓

I wholeheartedly agree with Dr John Heathcote's letter about riding on the A82 (Oct/Nov). However, there is an even bigger gap in the cycling network in Scotland.

Once you reach Glenoglehead on NCN7 (which is poorly surfaced), you are left with a problem: the West Highlands are only accessible by the A85 and A82. The West Highland Way is of limited use, yet there are many sections of Telford's road through Glen Coe that could be the basis of a cycling/walking route.

Incidentally, I was sitting in Red House Bothy when a man in his 80s arrived on a Brompton. It was a rough enough ride on my 29er MTB so I was impressed. I attach a photo of him leaving later on.

*Niall Wallace*



**Get in touch** Letters are edited for space and clarity. The editor reads and automatically acknowledges all letters but publishes only a selection. Please include your membership number. Write to: Cycle Letters, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX or email [editor@cyclenguk.org](mailto:editor@cyclenguk.org).

### Mirror, mirror ↓

I have been trying to find out if there have been any reviews of bar-end mirrors in the magazine and can't find out how to search this. I have found the forum and some useful advice, but is there a way to search the journal for product reviews?

*Jonathan Simmons*

We have reviewed bar-end mirrors but not recently. CatEye's (below) is inexpensive and works fine. The easiest way to search through older magazine content is on the website, using the search bar.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

### An old Raleigh, a little ruff

Thought your members would be interested in this vintage Raleigh Industries shop display we have just found. He's missing his sword but is not in bad condition really, and now has pride of place in our living room. He's 24 inches tall.

*Numi Solomons*

## 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: [cyclenguk.org/forum-aluminium-touring-bikes](http://cyclenguk.org/forum-aluminium-touring-bikes)

### WHERE DID THE ALU TOURING BIKES GO?

**Boyonabike:** I'm looking for a lightweight aluminium touring bike. Something like the Ridgeback Tour, except none are available in my size (just under 5ft 6in). Where are they all?

**Nearholmer:** A couple of bikes that are sold primarily for 'gravel', but which I think fit the bill are the Boardman ADV 8.9 and the Sonder Camino Al Hydraulic.

**Paulatic:** I have the Giant Toughroad (flat bar) which I find good for laden touring.

**pjclinch:** I suspect it's just historical

trends. Tourers are relatively a niche market these days - where you're really going to town now on a tourer, it tends to be titanium or steel.

**rareposter:** Are you looking for a 'pure' touring bike or something that can be made to tour? The fact you've mentioned the Dawes Galaxy and Ridgeback Tour seems to suggest the former.

**Bmblbzzz:** You could look for a trekking bike from a continental manufacturer such as Cube, Gazelle or Romet, and change the bars, assuming you want drops. Or learn to like flats.

**freiston:** Excepting specialist shops like Spa and SJS, touring bikes in name are not really a thing, but bikes for touring are - though they tend to be marketed for gravel, adventure, trekking and even 'bikepacking'.