



LETTER OF THE MONTH

## Musical note

Following on from the Bike Finder piece in the Dec 25/Jan 26 issue: here's a photo of how I carry my trombone on a bike. I've used my Xtracycle for carrying my trombone to rehearsals for a while. It's stable, easy to load up and allows me to carry the case plus a music bag and other gear. The Xtracycle is longer than a normal bike, but it can be stored vertically by standing it up on the rear frame. A similar midtail or longtail cargo bike would also work well.

The Mundo AirPannier looks interesting, but I'd be concerned about the stability of carrying a vertically loaded hard-case, especially in windy conditions. Carrying the trombone in a rucksack gig-bag is also an option, but there's more risk of damaging the instrument this way. **Steven Hammer**

Anthony Bearon wrote to say that he transports his trombone in a BOB Yak trailer, while Roos Eisma suggested a trombone gig-bag.

There will be a group test of cargo trailers in the next issue, and we'll be reviewing longtail e-cargo bikes later in the year. You can carry all sorts of things by bike if you have the means and mindset. My list includes a filing cabinet and a sideboard by trailer, and a cat and two guinea pigs (simultaneously) by Brompton. What interesting cargo have you carried? Let me know.

## WIN AN ORTLIEB SEATPACK WORTH £115

**THE LETTER OF THE MONTH** wins a 7.5-litre Ortlieb Seat-Pack QR, courtesy of Lyon Cycle. We tested the 13L size (A/M 24), saying it was: "Very well designed and made, and typically Ortlieb tough and waterproof." It's stable in use and is compatible with a dropper post. For more about Ortlieb products, visit [uk.ortlieb.com](http://uk.ortlieb.com). And don't forget that, as a Cycling UK member, you get a 10% discount on Ortlieb products bought online. See [cyclinguk.org/ortlieb](http://cyclinguk.org/ortlieb) for details.



# Over to you Letters

## The key to security

Guy Kesteven's review of grinder-resistant locks was interesting. Clearly some are up to it. If the lock cannot be cut through, then security depends on what the bike is fastened to. I suspect that the typical Sheffield stand would be easier to cut than these locks, and the wheel-holders that still abound can be cut with bolt croppers.

The stands at my local supermarket are fastened down with just four bolts. Seconds with a long enough spanner to shear off the bolt heads is all that is needed. I always fasten my bike to the join of two stands, on the basis that a bike and two stands is too unwieldy to steal easily. It's only a Gold lock, but I want one that will secure wheel and frame. It seems a pity to spend money on getting a light bike, then having to carry around a heavy lock to keep it secure.

*John Heathcote*

## Vive la différence

My 25-year Cycling UK membership badge arrived last year. The Dec/Jan edition of Cycle reassured me that all those subs were well spent: Rob Ainsley's fantastic feature on cheap places to stay while touring; and sage advice on what bike to buy if you need to carry a trombone around. Long may you answer the questions other magazines wouldn't even think to ask.

*Jack Thurston*

## Cycling with Grandma

Well done to Grandma (Keeping up with Grandma, Oct/Nov issue).

Cycling, whether with an electric or non-electric bike, is wonderful at any age, and you are never too old! I am 73 and cycle almost every day of the year on my trusty Dawes 201.

Apart from the joy and the feeling of freedom, it is brilliant for the arthritis in my knees. My GP advised many years ago that cycling is a really good way of keeping arthritis at bay as it strengthens the muscles around the joints. It works and is enjoyable, too! Best not to fall off, but it happens.

I live by the Malvern Hills so there are plenty of uphill and lovely views. Further afield, the Lake Vyrnwy/Bala loop is strongly recommended; it's a wonderful ride. Keep riding, Grandma!

*Sarah Gardner*



## It's in the bag

I read Fiona MacLeod's woes with taking her Brompton on a bus (Letters, Oct/Nov issue) – a very annoying situation. Just to let her know, and anyone else that has ever faced this issue or who fears this could happen: pack an Ikea Dimpa bag! It's the ultimate, unlikely