



LETTER OF THE MONTH

Questing time

I enjoyed Sarah Cook's BCQ article in Cycle magazine (pictured), and was amused by her discussion of efforts to plan a route. This deceptively simple problem is much studied in computer science and is notoriously difficult. It is known as the travelling salesman problem or TSP for short. A quick internet search will reveal that there are lots of research efforts looking for effective solutions. So BCQ and TSP are good bedfellows.

The article also led me to investigate the nearest checkpoint, which is at Settle station just 10 minutes from home. The online entry tells how the sign that is the subject of the question is no longer there, but will be replaced. At the foot of the wall where the sign previously lived is a small sign explaining that the plants have been removed from the small garden at the base of the wall, as there are plans to rebuild the wall.

However, I went down to the station and talked to the staff (Paul) and told him of the BCQ. The wall is now scheduled for rebuilding in 2027, and Paul offered to put the sign back 'for the season', which I guess means this summer.

David Holdsworth

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. And don't forget that, as a Cycling UK member, you get a 10% discount on Ortlieb products bought online. See cyclinguk.org/ortlieb for details.



On one's tows

I was pleased to see the coverage of trailers in the April/May issue of Cycle. Two years ago I broke the dropout on one side of my bike while carrying bricks. I now have a replacement cycle, to which I've attached a widget that means I can pull our trailer.

I live in York, which is mainly flat. There are motor-traffic-free links to many places, including retail parks. Many people already use a trailer in this city; the pink one in the photo was already there when I arrived.

If I lived somewhere hillier I'd welcome e-assist, and can imagine as I get older I'd need this. But for now the trailer attached to my standard cycle gives me freedom and flexibility and extends the utility uses I can put my bike to.

Rebecca Lack

Speaking of trailers: Bob from Carry Freedom got in touch to say that, although the company doesn't produce its own thru-axles, it recommends the Robert Axle Project 12mm Thru Axle for Kid Trailer. This is available in various lengths and thread pitches from sjscycles.co.uk for about £65.

Easy reading

Well done. With the recent changes to the fonts, colours and background colours in the magazine, the articles are a lot easier to read.

While still not a fan of any background colouration or graphics behind text, there is now an improvement. It's good to know, and I'd like to think that correspondence with your colleagues on this matter was put to good use, and that many others besides myself can benefit from the better text/background contrast we see in the latest edition.

Alwyn Howes

Wrongs of way

I enjoyed reading the article 'Questing time' by Sarah Cook. However, as someone who lived for many years in Sussex and who cycled through Ashdown Forest on the public roads, I feel that the article may lead to confrontations.

Local by-laws forbid cycling on the off-road trails; they are for horses and walkers only, unfortunately. I was hopeful that when East Sussex County Council



Left & top left: Sarah Cook