



## FROM THE EDITOR

On a night ride at the end of winter, we're threading our way through forest. It's cold and muddy but it's great to be out. We're not far from civilisation; we sometimes see distant rectangles of warmth, the windows of rural houses. Yet the sense of freedom is profound.

In places, the green corridors we're travelling down might be only hundreds of metres wide. With the route embedded in the middle, it doesn't matter. We could be anywhere, in this quiet slice of countryside.

The thought that someone might buy a chunk of public forested land and put up signs saying 'Keep off!' was deeply worrying. It still is. The Government bowed to the will of the people in dropping the big sell of the English forestry estate, yet proposals to sell off up to 15% are still on the cards.

That's a big deal if you're a mountain biker or rough-stuff tourer. By road there's often another route. Off-road your route choices aren't like that, and one broken link can break a ride. I'm glad there's no quitting in the fight for access.

Incidentally, talking of the will of the people, don't forget that there's a proxy voting form enclosed with this issue. Have a look at the AGM motions and make your opinion count.

**Dan Joyce**

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Above: by Clive Andrews

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