

## Your opinions

## LETTERS

**THIS MONTH** UNDERSTANDING DOGS, DIY E-BIKES, A RELAXING END-TO-END, BIKES ON TRAINS AND FERRIES, THE HEIMLICH MANOEUVRE, AND MORE



Left: Getty Images



Letter  
of the  
month

## Dog psychology

## GO TO THE DOGS

**D**ogs chase cyclists ('Call off the dogs', Letters, Aug-Sep) for the same reason they bark at the postman or refuse collector: they believe that their action has chased away a threat to their territory. Every cyclist who carries on riding past when a dog barks just reinforces this belief and rewards the behaviour so it becomes more and more profound.

So contrary to what may seem the logical tactics: instead of riding away faster, which might end with the dog entangled in your wheel, or ineffectively attempting to 'boot them' or whack them with a mini-pump, one should stop, turn round, and ride towards them. This totally confounds their belief – and 99% of the time they will turn tail and run back. Shouting at them so they recognise your voice will enable them to remember you, so they won't chase you next time you go that way. If enough people follow this advice, they won't bother chasing anyone at all.

Of course, this may not be the best tactic if being attacked by a pack of feral dogs in Turkey, but for lone dogs it is totally effective. Admittedly, most of the time I can't be bothered to stop so I just carry on regardless.

**Martin Atkinson (veterinary surgeon)**



A knight in chainmail...

## Quixotic bike build

Thought these photos of Don Quixote might interest or amuse you. They were taken at an exhibition in Almagro, Spain. In fact, there were plenty more examples but we didn't have sufficient presence of mind to photograph them all.

**Richard & Liz Ackland**

## Power to the people

It was good to see Richard Hallett's article on adding electric assistance to 'normal' bikes. A bit of help can make all the difference between struggling on ever shorter rides and maintaining the sort of cycling you have been used to but can no longer manage.

Many off-the-shelf electric bikes are either clumsy mountain/

E-bike kits use your own bike



## Write to Cycle

**EMAIL:** [cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk](mailto:cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk) **POST:** Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ. The star letter wins a £69.99 Altura Podium Lite, an ideal just-in-case jacket that's wind and showerproof yet easily packs into a jersey pocket.

For more about this ultra-lightweight jacket, which is available in hi-viz yellow or translucent white, go online to [altura.eu](http://altura.eu)



## ALTURA

hybrid styles or sportier versions, which are very expensive. My wife initially bought a good quality Kalkhoff e-bike but it wasn't as nice to ride as her old Orbit Gold Medal tourer, so the Orbit has now been converted with a crank-drive motor.

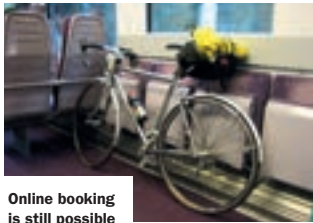
The cheapest way into converting your own bike is a wheel hub motor but fitting one may have its problems. You are also applying power where it was never anticipated by the designer. I actually cracked a fork blade after covering several hundred miles with the wheel motor. Bottom bracket motors are lots better.

**Andrew Brooke**



## A leisurely LEJOG

I enjoyed Paul Lloyd's account of his relaxed approach to the End-to-End route. Like him, I made the trip to enjoy the journey rather than as an endurance or charity challenge. My timing was perhaps a little extreme – 10 weeks as a postretirement project – but that included diversions along the way. My highlights included the Camel



Online booking is still possible

Trail and Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, the Gospel Pass to Hay-on-Wye, the Tissington Trail in Derbyshire, the wonderful TransPennine Trail, and the Northumberland coast. Like Paul, my wandering route saw me meet other cyclists on the final stretch from Lairg to John o' Groats. I continued on to Unst in Shetland via Orkney.

**Duncan MacIntyre**

### Clickable bike reservations

Just read on your latest Letters pages about the difficulty of booking bikes on trains. Until a few years ago, it used to be the bane of our lives. We always ended up going down to the local station to do it. They were none too pleased either, as the process was complicated and we held up the queue.

However, as you pointed out, ScotRail then started to offer the ability to do it online, as did TransPennine (then part of the same rail group). We've stuck with TransPennine ever since. You know before you buy your tickets whether there are bike spaces, so you can change trains first, and they will post out your tickets free of charge. See [tpexpress.co.uk](http://tpexpress.co.uk).

**Alan Weeks**

As well as TransPennine Express, ScotRail, and Great Western Railway (the new name for First Great Western), Hull Trains and Chiltern Railways also provide online bike booking.

### Bikes on ferries

I very much enjoyed the article on taking a bike by Eurostar in the June/July issue. It is a fantastic achievement that the efforts of Cycling UK have encouraged such a change of attitude towards travellers using Eurostar for cycle touring. I hope that Cycling UK might be able to accomplish something similar in regard to cycle touring to and from the UK using the cross-channel ferry ports.

We (as Croydon Bicycle Theatre) recently completed a cycle tour of the Netherlands using Stena Line to cross the channel. We had to queue with the motor traffic, breathing in exhaust fumes, to check in and out and to complete the passport control. Can Cycling UK make a request to our ferry operators to create separate queuing lanes for cyclists?

**Amy Foster**



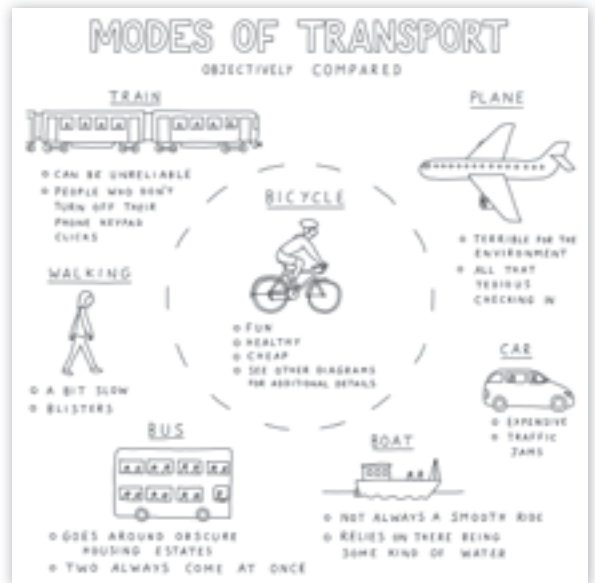
Queuing with the cars

### Fly in Scotsman

On our Sunday club ride today, I swallowed a fly – a BIG fly. Unable to cough it up, I was fast running out of air. I managed to stop and unclip, but could not breathe in nor out. My cycling companion gave me a few hard thumps on my back. That did not work, so he performed the Heimlich Manoeuvre on me. Never has fresh air tasted so good! My thanks to Andrew Ker of Kelso Wheelers. In future, although it goes against the grain, I will keep my mouth shut!

**Rob Smith**

### The Cycling Cartoonist



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The Cycling Cartoonist, An Illustrated Guide to Life on Two Wheels, is published by Bloomsbury ([bloomsbury.com](http://bloomsbury.com)), priced £10.99.

### Join the conversation

## CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other Cycling UK members on the Cycling UK forum: [forum.cyclinguk.org](http://forum.cyclinguk.org). Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: [bit.ly/cycle-freewater](http://bit.ly/cycle-freewater)

#### FREE DRINKING WATER

**mercalia:** Free drinking water – what are your rights? See [bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39881236](http://bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39881236). I think this should be added as a sticky somewhere. We all need water when we are out on our bikes, and this info is easy to overlook.  
**Samuel D:** In France, cemeteries are a good place to get water. They have taps for watering flowers.  
**nirakaro:** If I want a free top-up of water, it seems like simple good manners to buy something first –

they're trying to make a living, not running a charity. I've never been refused.  
**rbj:** Recently flew from Bristol Airport. Took an empty water bottle to fill up when past the security check but, you guessed it, no taps. Finally asked at one of the many departure-side bars to fill it up.  
**GPC:** I've been denied a water bottle fill on a group ride. Offered to buy tea but the café owner refused to fill the bottle and said that it makes it a bit pointless them selling bottles if they give it away.



**pete75:** Stopping for breakfast at the Selby bus station café on the way back from the York Rally, the gent behind the counter actually asked if we wanted our water bottles filling.  
**atlas\_shrugged:** It can be difficult getting water in Belgium. I had just finished a 100km ride and was explaining in a restaurant my fondness of big jugs of water. I was getting nowhere, so pointed to a carafe and asked for it to be filled with water – it came back full of wine!

## OBITUARIES

Are now be published online at [cyclinguk.org/obituaries](http://cyclinguk.org/obituaries). We recently said farewell to Les Jordan, Bob West, Ernest Patrick Wilson, Ted Foran, and Veronica Brown. Send obituaries to [publicity@cyclinguk.org](mailto:publicity@cyclinguk.org)

### How to contact Cycle

**LETTERS** are edited for space (if above 150 words), clarity and, if necessary, legality. Please note that if you have specific complaint or query about Cycling UK policy, you should address it to the relevant national office staff member. Letters & emails for the Dec/Jan issue must arrive by 31 October. Write to: [cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk](mailto:cyclinguk@jppublishing.co.uk) or Cycle Letters, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ

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