



Welcome

This winter is likely to be one of discontent. It's never the easiest season for cyclists, being wetter, colder, and darker. But this year's Christmas conviviality will be constrained by the pandemic, and even with a gradual vaccine rollout there's less to look forward to in 2021. You can study maps and websites of other countries but you can't yet be sure you'll be able to go there – or afford to do so, if Brexit happens to tip sterling into a nosedive...

Yet when we pass through midwinter, the earth will nevertheless start tilting us slowly back towards the sun. Longer, warmer days are coming. And there are no lockdown scenarios in which we won't be able to ride our bikes at all. Even at the height of the first wave, cycling solo was encouraged. So it's an escape that's sure to remain open.

Getting on your bike for exercise or fresh air is good as far it goes. We feel better for doing it and any day can accommodate it. But it's meat-and-potatoes cycling: nondescript, a way to pass the time that's pleasant. Such rides aren't ones that you circle on the calendar and count down to.

As well as everyday rides we need rides to look forward to: days on which we'll do something different. Cycling abroad might be on the back burner but (restrictions allowing) we're spoiled for choice within the four nations of the UK. What [cross fingers] is on your to-do list for 2021?

DAN JOYCE
Cycle Editor

Coronavirus
For updated advice regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, visit: cyclinguk.org/coronavirus

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Founded in 1878

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