

# Opinion Letters

**THIS MONTH** OFF-ROAD ACCESS, CARGO BIKES, THE 300,000 MILES CLUB, TRAFFIC LIGHT TIMING, AND MORE



The West Kernow Way uses some lost ways, such as the Tinnars Way

Left: Jordan Gibbons/Panmier.co.uk Right: Pashley Cycles

## Letter of the month

### On the right path?

**A**s a resident of west Cornwall, I was interested to read the article in Cycle about the launch of the West Kernow Way. Any development of our limited off-road cycling network is a good thing.

The article says: "We've delved into the archives and identified routes that have strong evidence for being used as a bridleway or byway in the past", which is great. However, the article goes on to say: "These routes may be currently shown as footpaths but the right to ride on them still exists."

If these route sections are designated as footpaths, are cyclists or horse riders riding on them breaking the law? Does the right to ride on them exist in law? Isn't there a risk of upsetting other footpath users and perhaps increasing resistance from walking groups to re-designating these sections as bridleways or byways?

Judging by the number of unmaintained footpaths, bridleways and byways, it seems unlikely that Cornwall Council will be able to process the existing applications that they have for re-designation. I hope I'm wrong.

**Andrew Hayle**

*The piece on p12 goes into this in more detail, and there's more online: [cyclinguk.org/lost-ways](http://cyclinguk.org/lost-ways). Rest assured that you're not breaking the law as a cyclist by riding on a route that's incorrectly shown as a footpath on a modern map. (In fact, you're not breaking the law even if it's correctly shown as a footpath, since cycling on a footpath is a civil not a criminal issue.)*

### Win an SKS Compit+ & case worth £89.98

The letter of the month wins an SKS Compit+, courtesy of Zyrofisher.

This mounts your phone securely to your handlebar and charges it on the go, wired or wirelessly. When we tested it in the Dec 20/Jan 21 issue, our reviewer said: "I was impressed... A rock-solid mount that keeps your phone topped up." The prize includes a Compit phone case. For more details, or to find your local stockist, visit [zyrofisher.co.uk](http://zyrofisher.co.uk)



## Get in touch

**LETTERS** are edited for space, clarity and, if necessary, legality. The Editor reads and acknowledges all members' letters but publishes only a selection and doesn't enter into correspondence. Feedback for the next issue must arrive by 23 December. Please include your membership number.

**WRITE TO:** Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ or email [editor@cyclinguk.org](mailto:editor@cyclinguk.org)



### Delivering the goods

Cargo bikes are not new, although the electric version might be. In the '60s I had a Saturday job delivering meat for a local butcher, using a trade bike (as it was known).

Health and safety regulations were just about non-existent then. The joints were not individually wrapped, and when I fell off and the contents of the basket rolled down the road, I simply picked them up, put them back, and continued delivering. This happened quite often, especially in the icy winter of 1962/63. And no one seemed bothered at all.

**Fred Newton**



### Cycling milestones

Just received my Cycling UK magazine and was saddened to read that Chris Davies has died. My late husband Bernard and I met Chris and Neville several times at our 300,000 Miles Club reunions, and had lots of interesting conversations about their travels. A shock when Nev died, I think; Chris really missed him. Sadly, Chris hadn't cycled for a while but he recorded a great mileage in his life.

My grand total mileage up to 2020 is 545,548 miles. Years back, Bernard and I submitted our mileage charts to Cycling. I am fortunate that I can cycle out to meet friends in Cheshire. For my 90th birthday, I rode 92km (not miles) so was happy, as I don't ride very far in a day now.

Trust you are well and fit and enjoy your cycling days.

**Joyce Blow**



## Potholes in pictures

The Cyclopedia Knowhow piece about what to do after a crash in the Aug-Sep issue was a good summary. The road defects section was also useful but I am dubious that any cyclist routinely carries a tin of beans just to give scale to potholes! May I suggest a shoe?

**Dr James Palmer**



## King Alfred's Way

Coming out of lockdown, it was time for a challenge: King Alfred's Way seemed like a good bet. I started from home, cycling from Walton on Thames along the River Way/Basingstoke Canal to my start point on the trail at Farnham. Then I rode west.

There's been varied terrain, lots to see along the way (Farnham Castle, the Atlantic Wall, Old Sarum), and enjoyable off-road cycling. I'm cycling the route solo in sections and taking my time (six

days). My wife has provided support and has rediscovered with me some of the towns and restaurants along the way in the evening.

I'm now halfway round and planning the next half from Salisbury to Farnham via Reading for later this month. It's been a great way to put the very weird last 18 months behind us. Thanks to the team for developing these adventure cycling routes.

**John Loosley**



## Traffic light timing

One aspect not mentioned in the Cyclopedia article about traffic light timing is the role of the highway authority, which is generally the body responsible for the traffic lights. In my experience, it is worth contacting them and asking for the phasing of the lights to be adjusted.

This may not work every time, but the authority should be aware that (especially if the problem has been brought to their attention) they might be held at least partially liable if there is an accident arising from badly adjusted traffic lights.

**Robin Muers**

## Cateran country

We visited this area last year, staying at the Lodge at Lochside in Lintrathen. We had an excellent stay but didn't manage to sample the cakes in the Wee Bear Café, being out on the bikes too long. But the breakfasts were excellent.

We hired electric bikes from Lintrathen Cycles next door. I have MS now so am finding hills a bit demanding. The owner was extremely helpful in recommending alternative routes to the options we had researched.

**Chris Wyatt**

### Obituaries

Are published online at [cyclinguk.org/obituaries](http://cyclinguk.org/obituaries). Contact [publicity@cyclinguk.org](mailto:publicity@cyclinguk.org)



Photo of the month

## Cheltenham & County CC

2021 is a special year for Cycling UK affiliate Cheltenham and County Cycling Club – it's our centenary! Originally founded as a section of the Cheltenham and County Harriers, 23 October 1921 saw the first club group ride with a run to Broadway. We currently have around 300 members who regularly ride with the club. The website is [cheltenhamandcounty.cc](http://cheltenhamandcounty.cc).

**Peter Seaward**

## CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other members at [forum.cyclinguk.org](http://forum.cyclinguk.org). Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread on there: [cyclinguk.org/bic](http://cyclinguk.org/bic)



**LittleGreyCat:** A standard tool for removing and replacing loose ball bearings has always been the Bic biro lid. All my recent bios seem to have integral lids or click to retract. Anyone know of an alternative.

**Hellhound:** Tweezers?

**Mick F:** I have always used a small screwdriver. Magnetic – or if it's not, drag it across a magnet to magnetise it.

**Eyebox:** Wouldn't be without my Bic biro top. Magnetic picker for lifting out the balls or replacing them. Then pen top for fine tuning them into place amidst a fresh layer of grease. Had the same biro top for 20-odd years.

**rogerzilla:** Magnets aren't ideal unless you are throwing away the balls, as they magnetise the balls, meaning they

attract wear particles instead of sweeping them aside.

**iandriver:** I suggest a bread punch set designed for fishing may be the tool of your dreams.

**colin54:** I reckon a cotton bud cut in half on the slant would make a good substitute for a Bic top if that's the method employed.

**Hellhound:** After reading all this I'm glad all my bearings are RS cartridge types!

**Sweep:** I use ball-end hex keys which came magnetised.

**LittleGreyCat:** The biro lid is an official engineering tool. As shown on page 216 of *The Bike Book* by Haynes, 1994 edition.

**Jupestar:** Serviced the hubs today. They did need it, but really I just wanted to try a biro lid. Brilliant.