

Opinion Letters

THIS MONTH SMALLER BIKES, CYCLING UK ROUTES, DUTCH CYCLING, MEMBERSHIP CARDS, UTILITY CYCLING – AND MORE

Get in touch

LETTERS are edited for space, clarity and, if necessary, legality. The editor reads and automatically acknowledges all letters but publishes only a selection. Feedback for the next issue must arrive by 31 October. Please include your membership number.

WRITE TO: Letters, Cycle, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX or email editor@cyclingsuk.org



Letter of the month

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

With the return of the Gower and Swansea Cycling Festival this August, member volunteers were busy beforehand getting the word out to encourage new riders and old to join in. Lorraine was one of our would-be festival cyclists, but at just under five feet tall she was struggling to find a decent bike that didn't look like a child's. So the review of the small Islabikes Luath by Pip Munday in the latest issue was really useful to us.

Armed with the technical information we needed, we decided to have a road trip from Swansea up to Ludlow, where Islabikes is based, so that Lorraine could have a test ride of different models. The Islabikes unit is a modern building, light and airy, with everything you need (including loos) to comfortably spend some time getting the right bike.

We were greeted by MD Tim Goodall. Lorraine explained her needs, and also her fears about getting back on a bike. Tim was so chilled. He explained the benefits of two step-through bikes and suggested a test ride outside the building. There was a straight and flat tarmac path, which was perfect for testing the bikes. Lorraine had not been on a bike for two years after a serious accident with another cyclist.

Tim was encouraging and patient and got her confidently riding and dismounting safely within minutes. The bike was easy to ride and looked great. Most importantly, it fitted perfectly. Lorraine bought it there and then. The whole experience was a joy.

Adele Stuart

Win a set of Exposure lights worth £85

The letter of the month wins a set of Trace and Tracer Mk2 DayBright lights, courtesy of Exposure Lights. These small (35g), rechargeable lights are ideal for urban riders or any cyclist wanting to be seen easily: the front emits up to 125 lumens, the rear up to 75. Conspicuity is boosted by excellent side visibility and an optional DayBright pulse pattern. The casing is durably made from CNC'd aluminium and is waterproof to IP65. For details, or to purchase Exposure lights, visit exposure-use.com/Brands/Exposure-Lights.

EXPOSURE LIGHTS



Left: Saskia Martin

REBELLION WAY

What a great route! I'm one of eight members of Huddersfield CTC who have just completed the tour over five days. I have two observations. Firstly, I was pleased how patient, tolerant and unhurried the vast majority of motorists were. My other observation is the economic impact.

We were a group aged 65-70, neither rich nor poor but prepared to pay for a comfortable bed at night, a shower and a meal. We visited hotels, pubs, B&Bs and cafés along the route, bought ice creams and ate in and out. All told, over the time we were in Norfolk, we put over £3k into the local economy, nearer £4k. Several businesses confirmed they are feeling the benefit of Rebellion Way visitor numbers adding to their turnover.

We need to be spreading this message: cycling is good for everyone, including businesses. Thanks for developing the route. It was fabulous.

Stephen Kennedy

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Regarding page five of the Aug/Sep issue: it's not 'Croeso i Cymru' but rather 'Croeso i Gymru'. The C of Cymru mutates to G after i. Maybe check with a Welsh speaker in future, or just copy the road signs seen on entering Wales?

Antony Gordon

Regarding Sophie's interesting article on the Traws Eryri: she was looking at the Irish Sea not the North Sea, unless she had made a navigational error and was descending from the Cheviot and looking at the Farne Islands! It made me smile, anyway.

Adam Haynes