



# Welcome

Vicky Balfour's 'Adventures for all' article is my favourite in this issue. For one thing it's refreshing – and instructive – to look at a subject like bikepacking through an entirely different lens. The challenge of bikepacking isn't necessarily big mileages or sleeping in a ditch or self-inflicted deprivation. It can, for family cyclists (I know) and disabled cyclists (I imagine), simply be starting the ride at all.

The article also brought back fond memories. Vicky and her group rode up the Cinder Track from Scarborough to Whitby. I did the same decades ago with my own children. It was traffic free. Distance didn't matter. Sometimes we just went to YHA Boggle Hole: 13 miles each way, ridden over two days.

Living right next to the Cinder Track made it a much easier adventure for us. [Once when we were family camping, I forgot the tin opener so rode home and got it.] It was easier because, looking back, the hardest thing about family touring in general was getting the bikes to the start of any trip away from home.

If I were doing family tours again now, I'd hire a vehicle. Back then we went by train. It wasn't easy. I remember running down a platform at Birmingham New Street, pushing a childback triplet with a trailer cycle attached with one hand and a solo bike with a luggage trailer attached with the other – while my wife ushered children aboard. Today that train trip with those bikes is impossible.

The fight for better transport choices – part of Cycling UK's 'Freedom to move' manifesto [p50] – goes on!

**DAN JOYCE**  
Editor

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**On the cover**  
Kelly-Jayne Collinge and her son Atlas. Photo by Richard Baybutt

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Top to bottom: Cycling UK, Laura Laker, Sam Jones, Sandy D Franklin

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