



CYCLING BACK IN TIME

Brilliant! I loved Rob Ainsley's article in the June/July issue. It took me back to my mid-teens, when my mates and I would head out into the Essex lanes. I had a Steyr-Puch with 26in wheels and a 3-speed hub gear. Although Essex has few hills compared to other parts of the UK, I was envious of my friend who had derailleur gears.

Larks would sing above Bulphan Fen, and cars were so few. We didn't bother to carry water or snacks, and stopped at village shops for food and drink. However, this caught me out on the day I decided to do a 55-mile ride on my own on the hottest day of the year. I remember walking a few miles through the lanes to get to Stock village, where I bought some snacks and a large bottle of Coke.

Looking back on it, they were some of the happiest days of my life.
Mike Barlow

HELMETS WITH MESH

I'm bald and a keen cyclist. In the warm weather the ventilation holes in a cycle helmet are great for keeping the head cool but they also let insects in more easily than letting them out. I've been stung several times as wasps or bees come into my cycle helmet.

I recently had a dragonfly trapped in my helmet and could feel it moving around looking for a way out. Usually it is just tickling flies and aphids. Is there anything I can buy that will retain good ventilation but shield against insects?

Mike Collins

Inexpensive helmets (from, for example, Pinnacle) sometimes come with insect mesh. Those from



premium brands seldom do, although the WaveCel lining of Trek/Bontrager helmets looks like it would also keep out insects. If you're wanting to keep your current helmet, an old-school cotton cycling cap underneath should at least protect your scalp.

ILLEGAL E-BIKES?

Most members will have seen the type of machine ridden frequently by food delivery couriers – superficially similar to bicycles but motorised and capable of going uphill even without pedalling. In my experience these machines never have any registration plate and the riders never wear helmets. I have no idea whether they have insurance nor whether the riders have any kind of licence, both of which would be essential for some machines but not for bicycles.

They seem illegal to me but I'm unaware of any police force prioritising the issue. Does Cycling UK have a position in relation to the legality of these machines? I don't recall seeing this issue discussed in your pages. Apologies if I've missed something.

Richard Innes

Cycling UK's position on e-bike legality is the same as what's already law in the UK (gov.uk/electric-bike-rules). While we've covered e-bike legal issues before, there will be another article next issue – and there's more on the website (cyclinguk.org/article/electric-cycles-and-law-what-you-need-

know). E-bikes that are effectively motorbikes rather than EAPCs are widely available in the UK. The one pictured below is from amazon.co.uk. It has two 1,000W motors and a top speed of over 25mph!



Photo of the month

WONKY BIKES

As an artist I'm struck by how many book illustrations display a very limited knowledge of how a bike is put together. And on our roads the representation of bikes is even worse.



I'm pleased that these signs get painted at all but I am inviting your readers to send me their favourites. Here is one of mine. Just marvel at that frame geometry! Please send images to pickles.william1@gmail.com.

William Pickles

CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other members at forum.cyclinguk.org. Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: cyclinguk.org/bike-theft-on-trains



BIKE THEFT ON TRAINS

TrevA: Poor old Andy Curran has had his bike stolen while returning from a tour of northern England, on the train from Manchester to Bristol: bit.ly/cycle-andycurran-theft.

Pinhead: Not locked!
toontra: You're not allowed to lock bikes on trains. That's the problem.

in4time: Signage on Avanti bike spaces says don't lock. The space is wholly inadequate for two bikes. I can't hang my 26in-wheel taurer from those hooks.

Pendodave: In those horrible little cupboards it might be necessary to move one of the bikes to get another in or out. If the bike is locked, chaos can ensue. For most long-distance services, it's possible to reserve a seat nearish enough to the storage to keep an eye open at stations.

Will: The LNER Azuma trains have the bike cupboards in Coach K. I usually reserve seat K84 or K85. The LNER website will just give you a random seat, so you have to change the seat to one in coach K.

Carlton green: I wonder if it might be allowable to secure a pedal to the frame? The bike could be moved and wheeled, but it wouldn't be possible to ride off in a hurry.

PH: On the CrossCountry Voyager train I use the most, the bike storage is in coach D, C or F, depending on whether it's a four- or five-carriage configuration.

Cowsham: If I'm ever travelling by train in England I'd be standing outside the bike bit until someone moves or gets off a seat near the bike so I could keep an eye on it. So I'll thank Andy for the warning.