

# Letters

## WRITE TO US AT:

CYCLE LETTERS,  
CTC, PARKLANDS,  
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## OR EMAIL:

CYCLELETTERS@CTC.ORG.UK

**This month:** sensible road signs,  
touring with a smartphone,  
CTC's Accident Line, mountain  
biking up Snowdon,  
irresponsible off-road riding,  
and rehabilitation rides

## THE BEST £41 I'VE SPENT

On a crisp Sunday morning in January, I stopped on a club ride and pulled onto the pavement to adjust my gears. Tom, one of my clubmates, stopped with me. We put our bikes back on the road, ready to start. Looking back, we saw two cars and decided to let them pass, then we would start. I was sitting on my bike, with one foot on the pavement.

The first car passed. Next thing I knew,



Photo: iStockphoto.com

I was lying on the grass with paramedics around me. The lady driving the second car hadn't cleared her windscreen of ice. She clipped Tom's leg, cutting it badly, then ran straight into the back of me. I was thrown up into the air, bounced off her bonnet into her windscreen (which I smashed) then onto the grass verge. I suffered leg, pelvis and shoulder injuries and had the left side of my jaw smashed.

Having renewed my membership a week or so before the accident, I phoned CTC when I got out of hospital a week later. I was put in touch with Adam Wilson of Slater and Gordon Lawyers. Without having to go to court, Adam has negotiated a really good settlement. I can't recommend this service enough.

I have started cycling again, up to 20 miles a day, three days a week – steady, with no big hills, although I still can't walk properly.

**Steven Green**



## PHOTOSHOP FUN

The attached image might make you smile. The original picture was by Tina Walker of Stevenage CTC. Image manipulation by CTC's Chris Peck. Some CTC members have very useful skills.

**Jim Brown**

## TOURING TECH

I use a Nokia Extra Boost portable battery to keep my smartphone

charged whilst away from a power socket for a day or two. Weighing a mere 75g and no larger than a tube of Smarties it is easy to tuck away in a corner of a bag. It will fully charge my Nokia Lumia, giving me a day or two of extra battery life. It cost about £20.

**Chris Reed**

I was very interested to read about Steve Rock's journey across France using a smartphone. I can see this working in the UK but as a full-time student this year, I am on a careful budget and so I was wondering if he would be able to give an indication of the cost of using maps via mobile 'roaming' charges – or did he get a French mobile contract to use the internet abroad?

To continue the budget theme, in relation to the letter about Eurostar and their steep new charges, readers might be interested to learn about the Eurotunnel cycle service ([tinyurl.com/clmkh4v](http://tinyurl.com/clmkh4v)), from Folkestone to Calais. It goes twice a day, you can put your bike on a trailer behind the minibus, panniers and all, and are whisked through the tunnel on the first available train, once all the pre-booked passengers have arrived.

**Jenny Tamplin**

## MOUNTAIN VIEWS

Having been involved in the design and construction of the new visitor facility on the summit of Snowdon, I was amused to read Julie Rand's account of their efforts to cycle to the summit. I was slightly surprised by her probably tongue-in-cheek comment about the lack of secure cycle parking! I must admit that during the design process, the likelihood of people arriving other than on foot or via the Snowdon Mountain Railway did not come to mind. As a keen touring cyclist and National Standard Instructor, perhaps I should have thought of the possibility! With regards to security, there are stainless steel railings nearby that could be used.

Yours incredibly,

**John Holiday**

I reckon you'll get at least four letters complaining about the

Letter  
OF  
THE  
MONTH



This view from Snowdon is available to mountain bikers as well as walkers due to bridleway access

mountain bike bias of the current issue and will publish maybe two. I thought it was very comprehensive, though, and enjoyed it. Well done.

**Andy Field**

Regarding the Snowdon article in the latest magazine: you are doing our movement no favours by promoting this sort of cycling! Already with my hillwalking hat on, I hate coming across off-road cyclists, who are all too often where they shouldn't be on the hills. I'm also fed up with riders hurtling towards me when I'm walking, expecting me to step aside – shouldn't cyclists be giving way?

Erosion is getting out of hand in the Peak District, where I often walk. For an example see Derwent Edge, which has a bridleway crossing it but has no cycling rights on the footpath along the Edge. This path is getting seriously carved up with tyre tracks.

CTC promoting riding on the hills without an explanation of rights (and responsibilities) is a serious worry.

**Derek Morton**

I rarely have occasion to complain about your excellent publication. However, I thought that I belonged to the Cyclists' TOURING Club and was therefore somewhat dismayed to note that the April/May issue seemed to be very much taken up with so-called 'mountain biking' and 'rough stuff' matters. There are any number of magazines devoted to this odd pastime and I would hope that future issues of Cycle will contain less of this 'stuff'.

**John Dodwell**

**In terms of coverage: our latest survey said that fewer than a**

**third of CTC members wanted less off-road cycling in Cycle.**

**CTC does promote responsible off-road cycling. See [tinyurl.com/ckllegn](http://tinyurl.com/ckllegn) for a guide on the CTC website to where you can ride off-road. The Snowdon article was confined to bridleways. CTC fought for our right to cycle on bridleways in the 1960s.**

### BACK TO CYCLING

My wife and I have recently taken advantage of a service offered by 'Wheels For All' at Hillsborough Park, Sheffield, organised by CTC Development Officer Steve Marsden. Ten months ago my wife Joan had a nasty accident whilst cycling, sustaining amongst other things a serious head injury.

Since cycling is so much a part of our lives, Joan wanted to start cycling again but had a crisis of confidence. This is where Wheels For All came to our rescue. Every Thursday they provide rides for disabled people (children and adults) on specially designed trikes and two wheelers.

The boost to Joan's confidence after just a couple of sessions was such that we then rode on the Monsal Trail in Derbyshire on our own, covering 12 miles. The next stage will be to dust down our tandem and ride on the open road to prepare for a cycling holiday.

**Dennis and Joan Sloney**



Caroline Waugh also rides with Wheels for All

## Obituaries

### ▶ **Brian Pendlebury: 27/5/35-31/1/13**

Brian joined CTC in the mid 50s, riding with the Family Section of the Liverpool DA. He was the Rights Officer, helped organise the two Birthday Rides hosted by Chester and North Wales, and organised the Veterans' 100 for several years. He was a founder of the Ledsham Family Section. He was awarded the Certificate of Merit in 1999. Brian had a horrific road accident during his National Service days, but his determination ensured that his difficulties did not stop him enjoying cycling. His cheerfulness made him a good companion on or off the bike. He died of cancer. **Arthur Miller**

### ▶ **Pam Cross: 13/6/33-12/1/13**

Pam joined CTC in Oxford in 1954, moving to the Wirral in 1958 with her husband, a teacher. She has since ridden with the Social 'A' Section, the Two Mills Group and the Wednesday Riders, where she acted as Treasurer and the organiser of Christmas lunches. She also edited 'The Link', our magazine. Recently she supported her husband, Mike, in his capacity of Group President at many events. A skilful map reader, Pam produced interesting and varied cycle rides that were enjoyed by all. We will miss her firm, calm and gentle presence. She died of a brain tumour. **Arthur Miller**

### ▶ **Mike Atkins: 1942-2013**

Mike came from a strong Labour background – stepfather Ronald an MP, sister Charlotte a transport minister – and was a Preston councillor in the '70s, along with wife, Kathy. As a civil engineer, he became a Lancashire CC traffic engineer, always travelling by bike. He was the council's first Cycling Officer. On retiring, he became a Sustrans Ranger and CTC RtR rep. Last year saw the opening of Preston's Guild Wheel, a route encircling the city that Mike fought for. He was also a mountaineer, environmentalist, jazz and real ale enthusiast, and a father of two. **Robin Field**

### ▶ **Max Hembling**

Died Dec 2012. He was a very keen cyclist who was a CTC overseas touring correspondent. He lived in Pouliguen in north west France for the last 20 years, and enjoyed the French enthusiasm for cycling. **Martin and Lynne Hemingway**

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Get immediate feedback from other CTC members on the CTC Forum: [forum.ctc.org.uk](http://forum.ctc.org.uk). Here's an abridged extract from one popular thread before Cycle went to press (see [tinyurl.com/ca42lb3](http://tinyurl.com/ca42lb3)).



### CHAIN CLEANING

**paieye:** I was recently converted to regular chain cleaning. I brush the chain, upper and lower, back-winding to make sure that all of it is brushed. I check with my fingers to make sure that the no grit has been missed. I then oil the chain and wipe it with a soft cloth. Is that adequate?

**Gearoidmuar:** I think it's impossible to clean all the grit out of a chain. I find that the chain wears at the same rate, even if you clean it by simply pouring oil on it and wiping it off.

**gentlegreen:** I've been trying minimal cleaning with GT85 and using Link-plus gold lube. I once worked out it was costing me 4p per mile for transmission, tyres and wheel rims – for me that's about £4 per week or 50p per day, so I would need a huge improvement to warrant a lot of extra effort.

**Mick F:** Drop it into a tub/bottle/jar with a suitable solvent and fit the lid tightly and shake the thing until your arm aches. Swap arms. Repeat until bored stiff. If the chain was really manky, repeat. If you've

used a water-soluble solvent – I like Gunk – fish your chain out and wash it in hot soapy water, then rinse in hot fresh water, then hang out the chain to dry. If it isn't clean enough, repeat all of the above. Don't put your chain on manky transmission components, so clean those too.

**Simonhill:** Crikey, MickF, I don't give my cycle shorts that much attention and they sit next to my vitals! For me a chain is a fairly cheap consumable that I replace when necessary.