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Founded in 1878



## FROM THE EDITOR

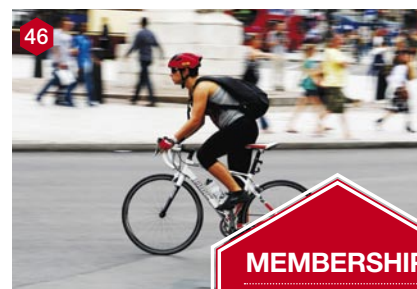
**THE NETHERLANDS** is famous for its cyclists, yet I saw hardly any when I was touring there in June. Instead, I saw people on bikes. Not lycra-clad cyclists but ordinary people: a mother and child (Bakfiets); a 20-something man with a guitar case on his back (Dutch roadster); a couple of pensioners (e-bikes); a teenage girl in a summer dress (Dutch roadster); a group of school children (Dutch roadsters)... That was what was striking. Not the infrastructure itself, but the fact that all Dutch society was cycling.

Even where cyclists shared the streets with pedestrians, cars and trams, such as in central Amsterdam, there was nothing combative about cycling there. It was a kind of benign chaos, where the density of pedestrians and cyclists dictated the speed of the traffic. There was, very clearly, safety in numbers.

The challenge for the UK, as Dr Rachel Aldred's article says (p46), is to make transport cycling here just as welcoming for *all* cyclists. To get normal people cycling, we have to normalise cycling. Being barely tolerated isn't enough; all cyclists must be made welcome.

That's partly why I went to the Netherlands on holiday: planners and road users *expect* you to be there. How nice that is! I'm sure that influenced Josie Dew's decision (p30) to go touring there with her family too.

**Dan Joyce**  
EDITOR



Clockwise from far left: Rob Ainsley, Josie Dew, Farouq Taj

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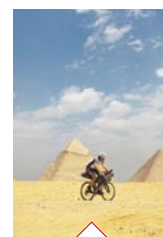
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**On the cover**  
Mark Beaumont at the Pyramids of Giza, the day before his ride began. © Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

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