



# Welcome

The irony of featuring touring bikes on the cover when we can't cycle except to work or for exercise isn't lost on me. It's not an accident of timing like last year's April/May issue, which came out with the headline 'Better together' just as the first lockdown hit. It is, rather, an aspiration to look beyond the long shadow cast by Covid-19. Lockdowns and their limitations won't last forever.

As it is, we cyclists got off relatively lightly. There hasn't been a day when we couldn't ride our bikes. Lots of could-be, should-be cyclists have rediscovered the joy of cycling. And while other industries have been hammered by the pandemic, bike sales have boomed.

Being essential retailers, bike shops have been able to stay open. Trade has been brisk: some shops sold in a month what they'd normally sell in a year. It's not all been good news. Prices have risen. Lead times for deliveries are long. The London Bike Show is no more. But a demand for bikes that outstrips supply is not the worst problem to have.

Some of 2020's new bike owners will carry on cycling when lockdowns and tier systems are behind us. Some will percolate through to membership of Cycling UK; indeed, membership is already at its highest level ever. And some of them will eventually go cycle touring – perhaps on bikes similar to those on the cover this issue.

**DAN JOYCE**  
Cycle Editor

**Coronavirus**  
For updated advice regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, visit: [cyclinguk.org/coronavirus](http://cyclinguk.org/coronavirus)

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**On the cover**  
East Dale, near Fordon, shot when North Yorkshire was in Tier 2. By Will Palmer Photography

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Top to bottom: Will Palmer Photography, Carlton Reid, Getty Images, Alamy

we are cycling UK

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Founded in 1878

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