



## Setting you straight

As a tribute to the stonemasons and quarrymen of years gone by, I must point out the difference between cobbles and setts. Even your article contributors don't appear to know the difference.

Cobbles are natural lumps of stone produced by nature by erosive processes and are rounded. Setts are (roughly) cubic stone blocks hewn by man (or woman) and are found in most northern towns. Belgium also has them, where they are known as pavé. I would point readers to an excellent article on the Pavingexpert website: [pavingexpert.com/setts01](http://pavingexpert.com/setts01)

I attach a pic of the juxtaposition of cobbles and setts in Tallin, taken on a bike tour of the Baltic States in September 2019.

**Rod Carter**

## Beat the bikelash

I've always supported Cycling UK's decisions when it comes to activism and campaigning, including what must be the most expensive sort – taking West Sussex County Council to court for ripping out the cycle lane in Shoreham.

It can't be an easy task deciding to spend the money entrusted to the charity on a risk, however good the cause. I'd like to make sure you're all aware that I support you choosing this case to make such a bold statement.

We'd all prefer that the charity's resources are used in a more positive way but sometimes one has to go on the offensive, and I believe this is such a time. Thank you for helping keep us safer when going about our daily lives. It makes a difference.

**Adam Piggott**



## Too sporty

Whenever I look through your magazine, practically every photo of cyclists shows them wearing lycra and helmets and all the gear. I never see cyclists like me.

I am a 72 year old female cyclist. I ride my bike for convenience as well as pleasure. I have two shopping baskets (front and back), mudguards, bell and lights. I also have an e-bike. I wear my ordinary clothes and have never worn a helmet.

Why is cycling in Britain always shown to be a sporting activity or maybe commuting? When I visit my friend in Germany, everyone wears normal clothes and rides without a helmet. Bikes are just a means of getting around. Why doesn't your magazine promote this?

**Alexandra Brewer**

## Great Dun Fell

Hats (or helmets) off to Ben Harris for his article on Great Dun Fell. It seems he had better weather than when I rode it in 2013. I had booked into Dufton hostel, intending to drop my luggage there and climb during the evening. I arrived early and the hostel was closed, so I ended up riding the climb loaded with all four panniers.

The weather was clear until the 'steep bit' began, then the cloud came down. At the summit I did not see the radar station until I was next to it. So much for a long-distance view!  
**Anthony Hardwicke**

### Obituaries

Are published online at [cyclinguk.org/obituaries](http://cyclinguk.org/obituaries). Contact [publicity@cyclinguk.org](mailto:publicity@cyclinguk.org)



## Photo of the month

### Soft verge

My son lives in the Netherlands and spotted this when out running. The sign reads 'soft verge'! I think only the Netherlands would put a bicycle in such a place.

**Barbara Boyd**

## CYCLING UK FORUM

Get immediate feedback from other members at [forum.cyclinguk.org](http://forum.cyclinguk.org). Here's an abridged extract from a recent thread: [cyclinguk.org/cattle-grid](http://cyclinguk.org/cattle-grid)



### CATTLE GRIDS ON CYCLE PATHS

**ChrisF:** Can anyone explain the purpose of these? There are several on NCN65, north-west of York. The grid spacings are (IMHO) too wide to cycle safely across, especially if wet. I can see no evidence of any animals that may want to cross.

**Mike Sales:** I know of a cattle grid on a hill. The bars slow you down so that when it is wet it is a little tricky to maintain speed and distribute weight to keep steerage. I find it a fun problem of technique.

**VinceLedge:** Plenty of cattle grids round here, most often on hilly roads. Some are a lot tougher than others. In the dry keep up a decent speed, stay straight, and lift off the saddle. If wet, slow down a bit!

**Cyril Haearn:** Best to slow down always; they can be very hazardous.

**markjohnobrien:** No: not always. Sometimes speed enables you to get over them safely.  
**mattscem:** At least it isn't on some Welsh 25% hill.  
**gaz:** The grid should be to the relevant BS and may/may not have an anti-slip coating. Land use changes over time, it's possible sheep or cattle were grazed in the area when the grid was placed but no longer are.  
**Bmbibzzz:** The round bars are nastier than the flat ones, but in both cases you need a little bit of speed to avoid it being too bumpy. About 15mph is right, I reckon.  
**Mick F:** It's to stop horse riders using the path. Usually has a warning sign forbidding horses. There's a few on Drake's Trail, route 27, south of Tavistock.

**rjb:** So who's going to ride the gridiron? [cyclinguk.org/route/gridiron-challenge-ride](http://cyclinguk.org/route/gridiron-challenge-ride) :-)