



FROM THE EDITOR

GOOD NEWS: the Dutch Reach, which Cycling UK campaigned for, is to be recommended by the Highway Code. Drivers will be encouraged to open their door with their left hand. This twists the body and reminds them to have a proper look round before opening the door into the path of any passing cyclists.

The Dutch Reach originated 50 years ago in the Netherlands. Let's hope it's not the last cycling idea to make its way across the North Sea.

To cyclists, the Netherlands looks like utopia. According to a European Commission report (bit.ly/cycle-qualitytransportPDF), 36% of the population say the bike is their most frequent mode of transport on a typical day. Not 'have a bike and sometimes use it' – there are more bikes in the Netherlands than people – but the number for whom the bicycle is their principal transport.

When you roll off the ferry at Rotterdam Europoort or Hoek van Holland, it's easy to see why. You're straight onto a proper cycleway: wide enough, well surfaced, well signed, and going where you want to go. The local cyclists don't look like cyclists because cycling has been normalised, not marginalised.

It didn't happen by accident. Dutch people took to the streets in the 1970s to protest at the number of their children dying on the roads due to motor traffic. They demanded change and the government listened. We've got a long way to go to follow in their footsteps and tyre tracks, but we'll only get transformational change if we reach for it – like the Dutch.

DAN JOYCE
Cycle editor



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Clockwise from far left: Cass Gilbert, Anna Hughes, Richard Hallett

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ON THE COVER
Sage Gilbert in Holland, by Cass Gilbert



Founded in 1878



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