

# Opinion Letters

**THIS MONTH BATTERY FIRES, WAINWRIGHT'S TRAIL, THE REBELLION WAY, WARMSHOWERS, BAD DOGS, AND MORE**



Battery fires are rare but can be devastating



Near left: Alamy. Far left: Michael Fearneyhough

Letter of the month

## Burning issue #2

**I**n response to the letter from Michael Fearneyhough relating his unfortunate experience of e-bike batteries causing a fire in a car: I suggest that alternative explanations should be considered, other than a salt water deposit causing a short circuit.

As an electrical engineer with many years' experience with large storage batteries, I am doubtful that the leakage path caused by salt water bridging the battery terminals could cause sufficient current to flow to cause a fire. While water, and particularly salt water, should not be allowed near electrical equipment, in this case I suggest that the current that would flow would be quite small, and that the heat generated would quickly boil off the water content. Drying out the deposit would dramatically increase its electrical resistance, reducing the current flow, and thus the heating effect.

Storage batteries should always be treated with great respect as they contain stored energy, just like petrol. I suspect that a fault inside one of the battery cells may have occurred, causing an internal short circuit and resulting in heat and pressure in the enclosed space of the cell. Such an internal fault could have been the result of a latent weakness, exacerbated by excessive ambient temperature, as might have occurred if the car had been parked in the sun.

Clearly, steps should be taken to rinse off sea water on any bike, but I suggest that e-bike users should also be careful not to let batteries get hot by being left in the sun.

**Graham Bevan**

## Win a set of Exposure lights worth £85

The letter of the month wins a set of Trace and Tracer Mk2 DayBright lights, courtesy of Exposure Lights. These small (35g), rechargeable lights are ideal for urban riders or any cyclist wanting to be seen easily: the front emits up to 125 lumens, the rear up to 75. Conspicuity is boosted by excellent side visibility and an optional DayBright pulse pattern. The casing is durably made from CNC'd aluminium and is waterproof to IP65. For details, or to purchase Exposure lights, visit [exposure-use.com/Brands/Exposure-Lights](http://exposure-use.com/Brands/Exposure-Lights)

**EXPOSURE LIGHTS**



## Get in touch

**LETTERS** are edited for space, clarity and, if necessary, legality. The editor reads and automatically acknowledges all members' letters but publishes only a selection and doesn't enter into correspondence. Feedback for the next issue must arrive by 28 February. Please include your membership number.

**WRITE TO:** Cycle, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ or email [editor@cyclingsuk.org](mailto:editor@cyclingsuk.org)

## FEET FIRST



I do not believe you should be campaigning for cycle access to Wainwright's CtC National Trail. This route was designed by a walker for walkers

and was not intended as a bridleway. I do not think it should be compulsory for all routes to be open to all means of transport.

I have cycled the Sea to Sea, which was surely created as an answer to the CtC. I have also cycled the Way of the Roses and the Pennine Cycleway.

I think it would be better to concentrate on supporting cyclists who have been unjustly prosecuted or ignored, and on your representations for better cycle lane facilities – all of which activities I fully support. I would also like to see more pressure placed on those responsible for the NCN to ensure appropriate riding surfaces are maintained.

**Peter Finch**

**There's more on page 12. In brief: it's not about mountain bikers fighting for space on footpaths with walkers.**

## FULL OF BEANS

I did buy some of the £874.29 socks as featured in the Freewheeling section. It made a right mess, though, when I poured in microwaved baked beans, as recommended on the same page to 'beat cold feet'.



**Rick Graham**

**Very good, Rick. If you're about to tuck into baking beans on toast, stop now: you'll break your teeth!**