



The author of our trailer-towing masterclass, Peter Addie, pulls his canoe seven miles each way for a spot of fishing in the sea off Devon, UK.

Photo: Kit Addie

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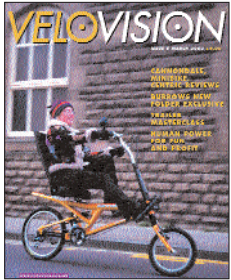
Velo Vision, The Environmental Community Centre, St Nicholas Fields, York, YO10 3EN, UK

Tel +44 1904 438 224
(from UK, 01904 438 224)
Fax +44 1904 438 236
(from UK, 01904 438 236)
Email peter@velovision.co.uk
Website www.velovision.co.uk

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Peter Eland
DESIGN: Brian Holt
WEBMASTER: Simon Ward
PRINTER: Stephens & George Magazines Ltd, Merthyr Tidal, Wales, UK. Tel 01685 388 888
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER: Jason Patient 01890 883408
ADDITIONAL HELP AND SUPPORT: Kriss Fearon, Mark Marsh and many more.

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VELO VISION AND VELO-VISION
We weren't first with the name. Velo-Vision (note the hyphen) is a progressive HPV-friendly bike shop in Körten, near Bergisch-Gladbach, Germany, who also make their own recumbents. Velo Vision magazine is working in friendly harmony with Velo-Vision in Germany. Contact them on www.velo-vision.de



Cover illustration: Cannondale's Easy Rider recumbent is reviewed this issue – read our verdict starting on page 24. Photo by Peter Eland

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TIME OUT

It's hard to know what to make of projects like Velo Nova, described in our News section over the page. Is it a daft utopian ideal born of wishful thinking? Or a visionary idea which could become a showcase for pedal power?

As the consequences of messed-up priorities in contemporary transport planning become ever more obvious, all too often the humble yet oh-so-effective bicycle is still overlooked as a part of the solution. A high-profile centre, supported by national and international bodies, could be a significant boost to the status of human power, the 'forgotten energy'.

It could also become an embarrassing white elephant, a freak-show of the weird and wacky in pedal power. The eye-catching concept drawings probably give this impression to the more sceptical onlooker. They're wonderfully inventive, but imagine them on a cold wet day with just a few bedraggled visitors...

But the purpose of Velo Nova is to be much more than a fun day out playing on silly bikes. It's intended as a centre of cycle industry research and innovation, a resource for planners, companies and individuals trying to get into cycling, an educational centre and a forum for the exchange of ideas and inspiration. It goes beyond just cycling, too, looking at all sorts of sustainable transportation and human power.

If it can be all of these things, and also a great day out, wet or dry, then they'll have done cycling a huge service. We wish the project well.

Peter Eland

PS Special thanks to everyone who re-subscribed after our big renewal issue, Issue 4. Seems like most of you rather like the magazine, as we've had just a tiny drop-out rate. Double thanks to all who scribbled kind words about the magazine on your renewal forms. To avoid too much self-congratulation on the Letters page I've decided instead to put a selection of these comments on the testimonials page of www.velovision.co.uk, our website, where you'll also find regular news updates to help bridge the gap between the quarterly magazines. You are also of course very welcome to use the free small ads facility on the website to sell or acquire bikes, bits of bikes or anything you fancy!