



FROM THE EDITOR

Following arrows at a trail centre is a fine way to get a two-hour adrenaline buzz, especially in the off-season when rain can make 'natural' trails boggily unrideable. But in summer, when puffy white clouds sail in blue skies over fields of wheat, when woodland is darkly overgrown and green, and the trails are dry – or dry enough – it's the ideal time to seek out new rides.

Pick a base in another part of the country; we've got some suggestions on page 24. Or just see what you can find in your own backyard by exploring bridleways and tracks that you've never got around to riding. If not now, when?

I found myself on a new trail not 10 miles from home, when my local club was hosting some family fun rides this summer. (As a qualified CTC Trail Leader – see page 40 – I was assisting.) It was refreshing to be shown a new stretch of local singletrack. It felt like a secret trail.

I hadn't previously marked it on my OS Explorer, which is scribbled on, dog-eared, and slightly torn. (Note to self: put the map trap on the *mountain bike*.) I'll highlight it now. The mountain biking world is dripping with shiny accessories but the best new things are those you can't buy: new places to ride.

Dan Joyce



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Photos by Benji Haworth, Al Churcher & Rob Ansley

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