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{ F R O M }

THE EDITOR



FAMILY PLANNING is something cyclists also do *after* the children are born. How will you all go cycling together?

When our boys were smaller, we had a Thorn Me 'n' U2 double-childback triplet, first with a Winchester child trailer attached, then a Burley Piccolo, so all three boys could pedal, sitting in a long line behind me (p51). It wasn't difficult to ride and we could go faster and further than the boys could on their own bikes. Only on long or steep hills did the sheer mass become a test, as we found out touring in the Peak District.

Mostly it was our urban runaround. It made possible journeys that we couldn't have done otherwise under our own steam. There were no worries about shepherding the boys on solo bikes, and we were such an unusual sight that everyone, including drivers, noticed us.

Some people wanted to ask about it, particularly pensioners who had had tandems of their own years before. Others just pointed or shouted. Look at the funny bike! This didn't much bother the boys. By the time they would have been embarrassed by our family bike – secondary school age, let's say – they had outgrown it and were on solos. At primary school age, when it was indispensable, the triplet was still pretty cool. It easily justified its purchase price, as any regularly used family cycle will.

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