

Reviews

Books

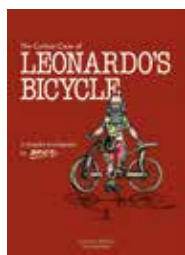
LITERATURE TO INSPIRE YOU IN LOCKDOWN

Print queue

Cycle doesn't feature all books received. Reviewers pick the ones they think you need to know about from the Editor's shortlist. Send review copies to: *Cycle*, PO Box 313, Scarborough, YO12 6WZ



The Curious Case of Leonardo's Bicycle



Details

By: Brick (John Stuart Clark)

Publisher: leonardosbicycle.co.uk
Price: £20 plus £3 P&P

I HAD SOME knowledge of the invention of the bicycle before opening this book but wasn't prepared for the visual assault that would tell the story in such a considered, researched and satirical way. Our intrepid hero, historical investigator and narrator takes us on a globetrotting ride of discovery that would challenge any Agatha Christie aficionado to believe the story being relayed.

It's told in a unique way, through a series of neat, self-contained chapters and by the medium of cartoon drawings – a format that neatly sidesteps any copyright issues. I really enjoyed it but found it challenging to read in parts; the darkness of some of the illustrations required full daylight or at least lots of artificial light. So I found it harder to dip into. It required a more considered approach.

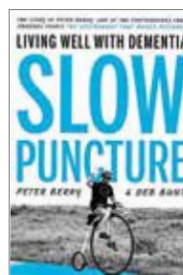
That aside, it's a compelling story, debunking the 'case' that Leonardo DaVinci had anything to do with the bicycle, and written in a humorous and entertaining style. It should appeal to any cyclist, whether or not they have any prior knowledge of the bicycle history. A great coffee table addition.

Ross Adams



Go online

For more about cycling history, including an account of the invention of the bicycle by (spoiler!) Baron Karl von Drais, visit cyclinguk.org/history



Details

By: Peter Berry & Deb Bunt

Publisher: Book Guild Publishing Ltd

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1913208936

Slow Puncture

'LUCKY' IS HARDLY the word for a man who developed dementia so early in a well-lived life. But one can only marvel at Peter Berry's luck in finding such an insightful biographer as Deb Bunt. Between talks, blogs, TV appearances, fund-raising – and, of course, challenging bike rides – Peter has achieved many goals while battling his 'dementia monster'. Yet these are only the backdrop to the story of a remarkable man. Touching, amusing, sad and philosophical, this book has a humanity at its core that provides a deeply enriching read.

David Holmes



Details

By: David Henshaw

Publisher: Excellent Books

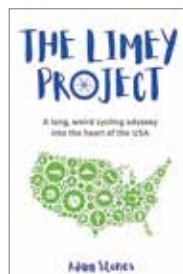
Price: £11.95

ISBN: 978-1901464405

Brompton Bicycle [3rd edition]

BROMPTON'S IMPROBABLE rise makes for a fascinating story of ingenuity, resilience and determination. David Henshaw is full of praise for inventor Andrew Ritchie and his creation but characterises the contemporary firm as one that focuses more on marketing – to the author's dismay. Illustrated with archival publicity material and behind-the-scenes images, *Brompton Bicycle* also includes a useful technical section.

Adam Pugh



Details

By: Adam Stones

Publisher: Beaumaris Books

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1838140106

The Limey Project

TWO FRIENDS TAKE on a trans-continental adventure to rouse themselves from a comfortable yet directionless life in rural England. As inexperienced cycle tourers they overcome challenges with youthful zeal and good humour. There are vivid descriptions of the sometimes dark, eccentric, and scary people they meet. I enjoyed the portrayal of the microcosms of life in gas stations, campsites, motels, and cities, and shared Adam's awe at the beauty of the natural landscapes.

Lynnette Evans