

**Fellow Velo Oct/Nov 2019
Newsletter**

Fellow Velo



Cycle... Friendly... France

Their first ever cycling holiday . . .

Newsletter Issue: Oct/Nov 2019



Great cycling weather runs long into the Provence summer and, so it was for a really engaging couple who joined us for their first ever cycling holiday. They were very clearly keen and proficient cyclists but, had never previously taken the little leap to make it the focus of a holiday. Having said that, they certainly picked a great route for their first cycling adventure; starting from high in the Gorges du Verdon, they rode through the whole of Provence Verte, over the Massif des Maures and finally along the Mediterranean coast to Saint Tropez and Sainte Maxime.

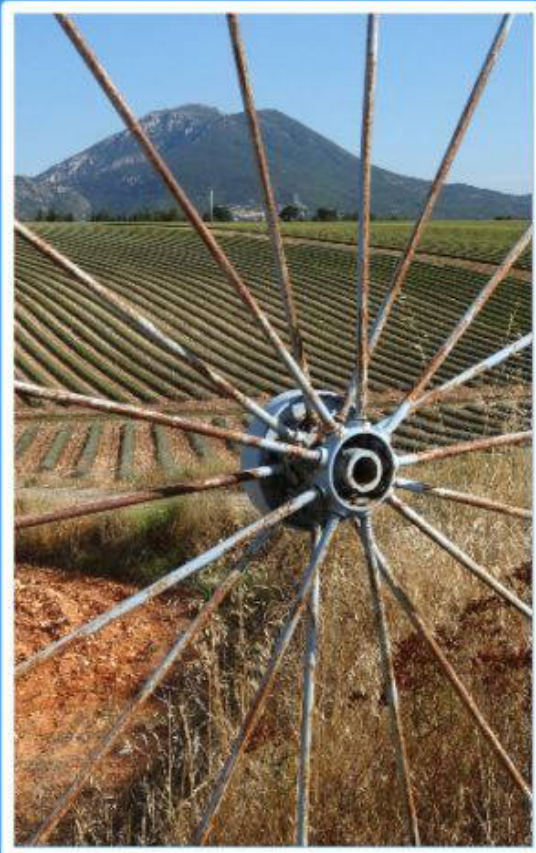
It was to be a wonderful week of varied landscapes; from the rugged and beautiful gorge, skirting the lavender fields of Haute Provence (though no longer in bloom, they retain a certain character at this time of year and, it's always good to leave something to return for in the future), through the cork oak woodlands, passed vineyards which invited the occasional stop for a tasting and finally, the opportunity to dive into a warm sea.

Barely an hour into day one we received a message from Stephen, just letting us know that this was already the best ride of his life; warm sunshine, an exhilarating landscape, shadowed by eagles soaring alongside them as they rode the rim of the gorge.

They were also delighted to discover some of the hidden treasures of Provence Rosé; something they would definitely be passing on to one of their daughters back home – a lone Rosé fan, among friends who had yet to see the light!

Janice told us that she only got her first personal bike at the age of forty; that may be later than for most people but, it should still leave plenty of years with adventures on two wheels yet to come – as many people may know, each of our Fellow Velo bikes is named and, Janice was on Raphael (named after our oldest customer {so far} at 88 years).

When we see and hear people who are truly thrilled by their cycling adventures, it really does remind us how lucky we are to share in just a little of that experience.



A Taster Weekend



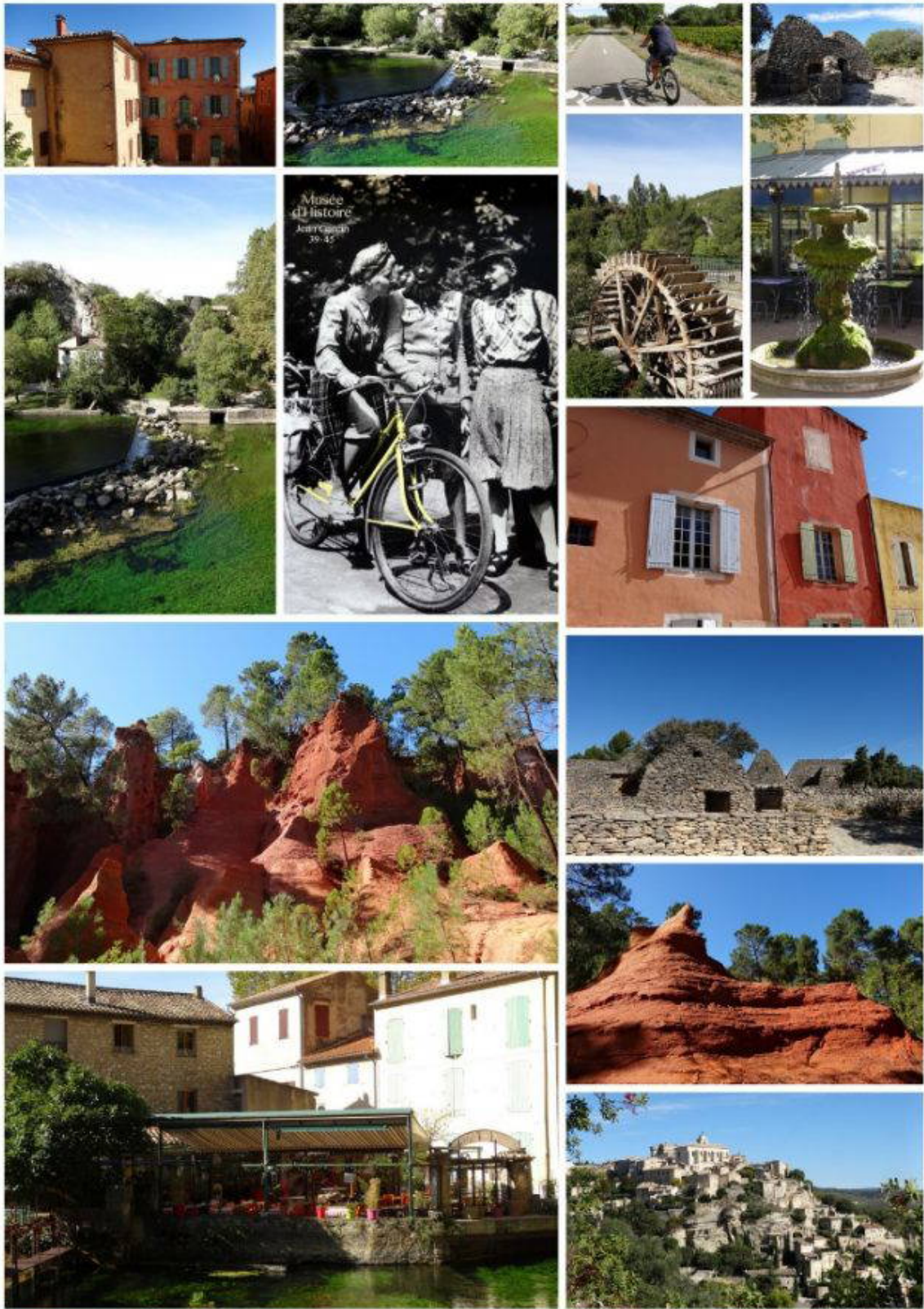
The sky and the sea are still clear and blue here but our 2019 cycling season in France is nearing its end. We finish just a little later than normal this year, courtesy of a booking into November in the Vaucluse (see some photos on Page 3) but, shortly after that we return to the UK for our final cycling booking of the year. Hopefully there will still be some leaves in 'leafy' Warwickshire for the taster weekend that we are delivering to a group of friends.

It's an easy way for people to have a bite-sized experience of a cycling holiday, starting on more familiar ground, so that they can get a little feel for how a full cycling holiday in France might be for them.

We will start the group with a little tour briefing just as we do for our customers in France and then introduce them to their individual bikes. On the Saturday, there is a fully guided day ride to make sure that everyone feels confident in the saddle and on the trails and, in the evening, there will be a tiny presentation to convey something of the experience they might find if and (hopefully) when they come to join us in France. Then on the Sunday, a shorter self-guided ride where they navigate a route for themselves with maps and notes provided by Fellow Velo.

A pub lunch stop should end a successful weekend and hopefully, inspire a further cycling adventure in France.

A taste of the Vaucluse in pictures . . . great cycling awaits!



Fellow Velo 2019 – Holiday Competition Winners

We recently hosted our lovely holiday competition winners in Provence Verte for their short-break cycling holiday. Bridget and Steve were fortunate enough to be able to add some cycling days to their trip and, were able to use their time with us to warm-up for a (successful) challenge on Mont Ventoux. A huge thanks from us to the chambres d'hotes partners, at **La Licorne** in Cotignac and **Villa Josephine** in Lorgues, who help us deliver this holiday competition – Merci à Bernadette & Eric et Jocelyn & Jean-Noel.



Poetry in Motion

Boy and Bicycle is the first film made by Ridley Scott. The black and white short was made on 16mm film while Scott was a photography student at the Royal College of Art in London in 1962. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4imP0iGlg0o>)

Although a very early work - Scott would not direct his first feature for another 15 years - the film is significant in that it features a number of visual elements that would become motifs of Scott's work. Shot entirely in West Hartlepool and Seaton Carew the film features the cooling tower and blast furnaces of the local British Steel North Works foreshadowing images in Alien, Blade Runner and Black Rain. The central element of the Boy and Bicycle is re-used in Scott's advert for Hovis of the early 1970s. The film features Scott's younger brother Tony Scott as the boy. "We were both experiencing the process that would fundamentally take us through our live together, in terms of making movies" Ridley Scott commented about the film and his brother.

Scott secured finance from the British Film Institute to complete the editing and sound in 1965 including a track by John Barry called "Onward Christian Spacemen".

The composer was so impressed by the young filmmaker he agreed to produce a new recording for the film.

Contact Us:

☎ 07811 285021
✉ info@fellowvelo.com
🌐 www.fellowvelo.com



Our Aug/Sept 2019 Newsletter



Newsletter Issue: Aug/Sept 2019

Summer Newsletter . . . including Fellow Velo on 'the' Tour



In July we had the good fortune and real pleasure of sharing two days following the 'Tour de France, with some lovely experiences. The booking was a little different to our usual guided and self-guided tours, in fact not as and there, nobody's business, located a mile or so from the city.

The more than usual comment was that we all got to see some of the world's best cyclists in their personal challenge in the world's greatest bike race - they were in lucking distance at times but we thought better of it.

The holiday was booked in the company of her lovely 10-year-old son as a birthday present, a very keen cyclist. In a family of avid cycling fans, who still looked and sounded like he had all the energy and inclination to climb on his bike and join in to talk, we'd have put Tony at around sixty years of age and would have been fearful of him dropping us on the climbs!

Page 1 of 4



Over the course of two days, we experienced the Full Tour Grand Départ, in two different beautiful towns of Provence, we approached the entire field of teams for a Depart F1C1, we saw the riders in the peloton and in breakaways and, ended one stage just metres away from the Stage Finish for a classic sprint to the line at Etapes.

For France, the Tour is so much more than just a bike race, its atmosphere for weeks ahead of its arrival becomes the focal point of towns and villages along the route.



Page 2 of 4



The Break from our Distances
Andy and Jane were our personal guides for two days of the Tour de France. The race arranged by my daughter as a birthday gift. We were impressed by the family professionalism and the in-depth knowledge of and logical expertise relating to this prestigious race. Andy and Jane are passionate about all related cycling matters and I can wholeheartedly recommend them to anyone contemplating a cycling experience.



Next year the Tour de France is scheduled to start in Albi, the full race calendar will be published later in the autumn. If you would like us to help you plan the experience then we need to start to working from you soon.

Page 3 of 4

Bespoke Cycle Tours

It is not unusual for us to have unusual requests for cycle tour itineraries and, as a small family company, we aim to be as flexible as possible to help bring people's holiday plans together. So, if you have an idea about a cycling holiday in France but you aren't quite sure how to make it happen then, please feel free to ask – we would love to help you realise your dreams. Below is just one example of a bespoke booking from this year's calendar.

Canal du Nivernais



We were contacted by a group of seasoned, race touringists with decades of cycle-touring experience, who now wanted to revisit a trail that'd ridden years ago but like time, with the comfort of a tent and a solid roof over their heads at the end of each day. Though they knew the route very well, they were seeking for someone to take the heavy out of planning and booking their period of accommodation along the way. The commission that followed on from the initial enquiry now means that they have a year that includes just a little new adventure linked to the comfort of places to be visited.



Outgoing Poetry of Prose
General Thomas on Joan Dornal at the Tour de France 2019
"It's the first of many," Thomas said
"Alan's just been improving all the time
and now born to go uphill fast. He's a
familiar guy with a very bright future."

Contact: 07811 280021
info@followello.com
www.followello.com

Page 4 of 4

An Autumn in Provence Cycling Offer

Our Spring Newsletter



Newsletter Issue: April/May 2019

Spring Newsletter – Let the holidays begin...



Jean-Claude, the Derr Van, ready to travel for 2019...

We're not entirely sure where all our UK winter months have gone but, we did manage to add a few experiences (and our all-cycling related) before we found ourselves back in planning mode for a cycling season in France since more. We've managed to catch up with some old friends, met a few former customers, with another Australian couple to re-engage in before we depart and, at least one of us branched out on the activity front when they found themselves almost accidentally drawn into an Olympic double gh trip at the herby track in Austria. However, now it's back to the Fellow Velo world and Jean-Claude is getting ready for his return to La Belle France – Spring is in the air!

Page 1 of 2




The quick short break in December came with plenty of little and, Sunday, no extra. It adds things on a vertical wall, pulling up in one of the seats, slipping as the third-leaking gear might have had. It was probably no bad thing that we left the evening to the professional. The trip all started with a summer of casual chat over a beer before Christmas with an old friend who was on the lookout for someone willing to support his plan for a new experience. The hope, needless to say, it needed a little balance and balance. You can read that and friend's...

Back on Terra Firma




Our final experience of the last few months was a short escape in Devon. Having all across France is truly wonderful and we definitely wouldn't change that plan for Fellow Velo but, it's also great to find great ideas to frame for to go with friends. The fact amazing weather for a few days in March and, as well as some lovely North Devon beaches, found ourselves exploring the Terra Trail and visiting the eclectic Broomhill Sculpture Garden – a network of garden paths, blending with art and sculpture.

Page 2 of 2




Fellow Velo Holiday Winner

This week we contacted our 2019 Holiday Competition Winner and will hopefully be finalising the details of their cycling adventure in Provence soon. We advertised our favorite 20 articles from the hundreds that we received and then, chose a winner from the list. The winning words were:

"Cycling in Provence... Perfect... Wonderful... Blissful!"




Podding Poetry of Prose...
T.C. Lawrence, our app leader, has bicycles and more like too. He's a man, and if you ever find "The Man", enjoy the best of the open road.

Contact: 07811 265021
info@fellowvelo.com
www.fellowvelo.com

Page 3 of 3

Our Valentine's Newsletter



Our February/March Newsletter – just in time for Valentine's Day. We know that our tours have featured in Christmas presents but, we're not sure one has been a Valentine's present yet . . .

Win a Cycling Holiday in Provence



Would you like a short break, cycling in Provence in the

Autumn of 2019? If you go to the 'Info' tab on our website menu and click on the competition option, you will find the details on how you could win a Fellow Velo cycling holiday in 2019. Good luck to all who enter!

Our Autumn 2018 Newsletter



Celebrate Your Dreams **Newsletter Issue: Dec/Nov 2018**



Celebrate your dreams... especially when they are realised after a long wait!

Over the tragic death of Tom Simpson, a leading cyclist of the 1960s, as they looked back to the Tour de France of 1961. Terry had dreamt of watching the national flag set in the south he had watched Tom Simpson race and he was one of the many contributors to the fund for the memorial on the final approach of the mountain. Lane and Terry are a wonderful couple of supporting Fellow Velo members, for whom it was a genuine pleasure to help support their challenge two year on from Toronto.

The couple are at the summit, where they have chosen champagne but, on this day a much less of champagne and a pair of Goretex were what they needed... after a climb like that, when were we to argue?

So don't give up on your dreams, if ever we needed it. Lane and Terry's love, including their Mountain was a great reminder as to why we followed our own dream a few years ago with Fellow Velo.

Page 1 of 4



... and there were the reviews they posted online after their trip.

Tom Lane
 When my partner always wanted to go on a cycling holiday but we had her last about the logistics - getting things done and being there with a budget. They were to be a 1000 miles and just not allowing time for a holiday at all.

Lane and Terry's comments - Just two weeks ago we went to the South of France. Nothing was too much for us. Tom and Terry didn't want just a holiday but a holiday that was a challenge. They were to be a 1000 miles and just not allowing time for a holiday at all. They were to be a 1000 miles and just not allowing time for a holiday at all.

Tom Lane
 The spirit was absolutely brilliant. The people were fantastic. The weather was perfect. The food was excellent. The scenery was beautiful. The people were fantastic. The weather was perfect. The food was excellent. The scenery was beautiful.

25 - 27 January | Olympia Leoben
 Fellow Velo will be back at the France Show again for the first time in January. If you see or can be in London for the show, then we would love to see you there, share a glass of wine, enter a competition to win a cycling holiday in Provence or just chat about your own cycling dreams in France. It's a great show with a really friendly atmosphere and a little closer to the show, we may even have a few tickets to give away... just watch this space in our Christmas Newsletter.

THE FRANCE SHOW 2019

Page 2 of 4

Our own little Fellow Velo Tour - Barcelona to Provence

The year we decided to go on a Fellow Velo tour was a year of firsts for us. It was a really big step for us to go on a Fellow Velo tour. It was a really big step for us to go on a Fellow Velo tour. It was a really big step for us to go on a Fellow Velo tour.

Fellow Velo - Barcelona to Provence - October 2018



This is a first for the company of the tour.

Page 3 of 4



V is for Vastness

During our summer cycling season we had a very kind invitation from the Vancouver Department to go on a four-day sponsored trip across the mountains of that part of Province, particularly the cycling holiday and adventure on two wheels. It was a great experience for us, taking the time to enjoy the views and the beautiful mountain scenery, looking for local partners who would be keen to support our adventure that weekend in the western part of Province.

Though we already know the area, it was a great opportunity to learn more about the part of Province and, we will continue to look for more local partners to our website to take advantage of our great travel in September.

A huge thank you from us to all of Vancouver Province Adventure and to everyone who supported us during the programme.

Cycling Party
 In a small town in all our Portland, Oregon visitors this summer, a group from William Stafford, named Paul Laureate of Oregon in 1972.

Make time for M. Bibe
 I know, and the mountain lakes near Portland were on those winter nights and the snow was so beautiful. Then color came and turned out, and in that address a meeting that day.

and I have thought (maybe) as we have, especially in a hotel, entering beautiful homes. That's the splendor of our life, its current and future as these mountains, the snow no one sees.

© citizens of our great country we are glad to see that the five. Money means big, great years and seasons of us so bright the large river in tears, and I fear in the dark a chuckle like to have

William Stafford

CONTACT US!
 07811 293021
 info@fellowvelo.com
 www.fellowvelo.com

Page 4 of 4

Our Summer Newsletter



Fellow Velo
Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter issue: Aug/Sept 2018

Summer Newsletter – it's hot, hot, hot, just about everywhere...

Hi everyone,
Well, here we are, half way through our summer season, and where has the time gone to.
We've had great fun with the F1 group who visited to Paul Ricard for the French Grand Prix. Fabulous enthusiastic youngsters from Brazil, India, a bunch of lovely Canadians including old friend French, to mention just a few of the globe we have met.
Looking forward to the rest of the customers yet to come, including new and familiar faces from around the globe, from Australia to Cambodia, England. Can't believe there's no-one else from Boise, Idaho this year.

Ever thought of camping for your cycling holiday? It's a lot of fun and French campsites are very well set up, and best of all, we can set the tents for you...
We had a lovely group of 8 Canadians who were with us earlier this summer. They camped for a night in the Verdon Gorge and then had 4 nights in hotels.
A great way to experience lots of different things. Wish they were here too.

Page 1 of 2

Cycling holidays are not all about the bike, although they are an important part! Let us know what you are interested in and we will see if we can help.
For some it was "Cars and Wine" week, no problem.
We had a fabulous trip to the Luberon. It was just the summer for a "Palais and Wine" tour.
A fabulous day, water place and topped off with a picnic of Provencal delights in a very shady spot.



CAVE LUDOVIC DE NEUFESJOUR

N... is for new routes
We are looking at a number of new routes for 2019 and beyond. One is at the request of a previous customer.
Let us know if you are interested in...
"Sustainable" wine tour staying in accommodation at (or near) the vineyard(s). Great food, amazing wine and a bit of cycling in between.
Cycle to Le Mans 24hr race – and June 2018.
Cycle Monaco to Monza (F1). Watch the space...



Peddling Poetry or Prose...
For this newsletter it has to be a big Congratulations to Gerald, Thomas and the day team for their fabulous Tour de France win. Awesome riding, awesome attitude and, super team work. We loved the Brestois post cards by Rob Hayes & Tom Parryson, great talent!

Contact: 07811 285021
info@fellowvelo.com
www.fellowvelo.com

Page 2 of 2

Some lavender colour to match the fields through which a great tour ran last month; lovely people exploring a beautiful landscape.

Our April/May Newsletter

Newsletter Issue: April/May 2018

Spring Newsletter – Let the holidays begin...



Congratulations to Cat and Andrew who have won this year's competition. They will be coming out to Provence in September to cycle some of our favourite routes. Thank you to all who entered the competition and a big merci to Bernadette & Eric at Le Livron, Catherine and Joerges & Jean-Benoit at Villa Jasaphon, Laurence for their support for this competition. (You should have heard the vociferous message Cat left when she found out she had won... she was a little embarrassed it's a little embarrassing, however they are looking forward to swapping the grey hairs on this photo for blue ones in Provence, à bientôt... joly the cats little paws is not coming...)

Spectacular riding does not always have to be as challenging as it looks, we can transport you to ride the best routes and help you up the hills if needed.

This wonderful group from Adelaide last year needed no such help as they were used to. This year we are taking a number of groups to cycle the impressive Gorges du Verdon.



(continued)

Page 1 of 2

We are also taking groups to the Camargue. Enjoy the riding in a starkly beautiful landscape, to coastal trips by the Mer, inland, hidden Provence. We'll ride the amazing villages and, to the spectacular lavender fields of the lavender plateau. There are just some of this year's gems. June sees a new trip - cycling from the Gorges du Verdon to the French Grand Prix at Paul Ricard. For the race, we are really looking forward to this one.



V is for Ventoux

At the equally end of what we can offer, we are riding a few supported trips to the Mont Ventoux. We can tailor make your Ventoux trip, to include training rides, vehicle support, along with the usual accommodations, shoes and kit etc. and we are with you almost every inch of the way on this spectacular mountain. It is an option to witness people fulfilling their dream of cycling up this iconic climb and, to witness their celebrations (and relief!) when they get to the top.

Have you booked your holiday yet?

If you are thinking about a cycling holiday with us this year, we have a few great weeks commencing 1st July, 1st August, 2nd October and a few other dates for Provence, call us to find out. If you are thinking about a cycling holiday for 2019 then watch out for our next newsletter in June, where you will find details of our "early bird booking offer for 2019". Whichever you are doing for your holidays, have fun...



Recovering Poetry or Prose
Renowned geneticist, Professor Steve Jones, once argued that the bicycle was the greatest invention to combat genetic disorders, on the grounds that it resulted in more genetic mixing as a result of marriages between people living in different towns.

Contact: 07811 285021
info@fellowvelo.com
www.fellowvelo.com

Page 2 of 2

Our April/May Newsletter, just in time for the start of the 2018 Fellow Velo cycling season.