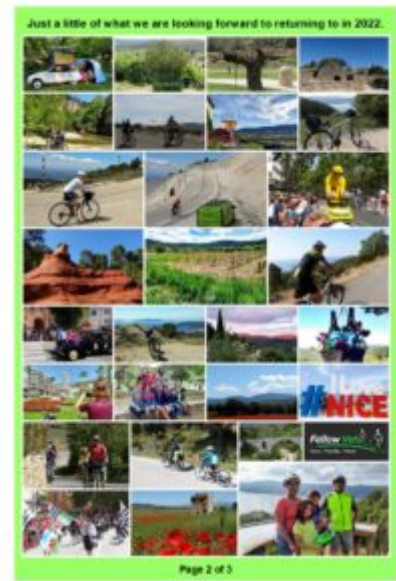


Our Christmas Newsletter



Pedalling Poetry or Prose
One of the great war poets, Edward Thomas set out on his bicycle in 1915. In *Paraphrase of Spring* records that journey. His great words could perhaps be seen as a glimpse of what bikepacking writing from over a century ago might have looked like . . . none of the online videos of today but, plenty of space for us to create the pictures for ourselves. Just a couple of short extracts from the book are here below.

The night was still, and on the morning the earth lay covering a great, quiet sleep of recovery from the wind's rage. The valley could be heard as often as the mistal thrush. The sleep looked through a morning of frost and haze into a clear day, gentle but bright, and another and another of cloudy brightness, brighter conditions, rounded off between hill and hill and built out on the lowlands, rising. The nights were strange children for such days, nights of brittle wind and rain, threatening to undo all the good work in a night, morning resolution. There were frozen steers, inevitable sheep, but the birds returned."

A little inspiration for 2022

We can't deny that 2020 and 2021 have been difficult years for cycling holidays but, the great adventures and experiences that were there in the past, are very definitely still there to be discovered once again. Our cycling season may have been a little shorter this year but it was still packed with fun, great memories and, not just a little inspiration that means we really can look more hopefully to cycling in France in 2022 and beyond.

There's got to be a lot of 2021 memories, we best make the most of them as they will not be 2022 and, to those who may be thinking of joining us too.

From John and Andy
@Fellow Velo

Contact Us:
+44 7811 286021
info@fellowvelo.com
www.fellowvelo.com

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Merry Christmas to All