



Cyclists and pedestrians in Newcastle and Gateshead, in Northern England, now have their own bridge over the River Tyne. The spectacular design of the Millennium Bridge has won many plaudits, and the way the whole bridge tilts over to let ships through is believed to be unique. The £22 million project was opened on September 17th, 2001.

Photographs by Jason Patient.

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VELO VISION AND VELO-VISION
We weren't first with the name. Velo-Vision (note the hyphen) is a progressive HPV-friendly bike shop in Körten, near Bergisch-Gladbach, Germany, who also make their own recumbents. Velo Vision magazine is working in friendly harmony with Velo-Vision in Germany. Contact them on www.velo-vision.de



Cover illustration: Snow-cruised Alps frame a Madras rickshaw pedalled from Leeds to Genoa by a determined band of 'Drop the Debt' campaigners. At over 100kg and with just a three-speed hub, crossing the mountains was no mean achievement. Read the full story on page 18.

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ONE YEAR ON

Issue Four marks a year of Velo Vision. I'd like to thank the subscribers, advertisers, contributors and colleagues who have helped to make it possible. We're proud of what has been achieved so far, and will try to make next year's output even better.

As a company, Velo Vision has survived the dreaded first year without too many traumas. Subscription and advertising revenues are at a level which will sustain the magazine indefinitely. We could always use more subscribers, of course, and increased numbers will allow us to increase page numbers and colour content. Readership continues to grow in many countries, but word-of-mouth assistance from you, the readers, is always much appreciated.

The longer the magazine continues, the more I am convinced that it satisfies a definite need. One gap it fills is that of a showcase for all of the cool, interesting, sometimes esoteric, cycle technology which never really gets a chance in the mainstream press. For example, it's astonishing that I've never read an article about the impressive *Projekt Läufer*, even in German cycling magazines.

Velo Vision's other function is to act as an information exchange, bringing together cycling ideas and experiences from around the world. With the bike still seen in many countries as very much marginal to the transport debate, articles about practical, successful bike projects can be of real value. Such articles are also, I hope, enjoyable and inspiring for any cyclist to read.

I hope it's also interesting and informative for our predominately Western readership to read eye-opening pieces such as this issue's article about the Boda-Boda riders on the Kenya-Uganda border. Not far from there, in Jinja, Uganda, the Pan-African Bicycle Conference (see Issue 2, page 5) is taking place as this issue goes to press. Delegates from across the continent will be trying to work out how to persuade African decision-makers that the bicycle is an effective, modern transport alternative rather than a backward, obsolete contraption. I hope we've given them some ammunition in Velo Vision.

Peter Eland