

Using my [Spokes competition](#) prize to buy a [cargo bike](#)

November 2023

I was both lucky and unlucky! I had my faithful Bergamont cargo bike stolen on 12th September, and when later that week I was told I'd managed to get 2nd prize in the annual competition, the grant towards a cargo bike was still on the list, and of course that was the obvious choice for me. The Cargo Bike Movement (CBM) kindly lent me a cargo bike to tide me over, and I was planning to take my time over the choice of replacement, but then I had the chance to try Laid Back Bike's demo Veloe and I loved it! David Gardiner gave me an attractive ex-demo price and in return I will, whenever I can, attend bike trial sessions to raise awareness of the possibilities of car-free travel and transport.

The Veloe is lighter than the Bergamont, with smaller battery and probably less carrying capacity, but it's much more like a regular bike which certainly has its advantages, for example I can step through it, which was too risky on the Bergamont but is the way I have always got on and off regular bikes. It's a joy to ride, this one is a fun colour, and the price point makes it a really attractive alternative to a Tern too. David was able to attach the trailer attaching component to the axel for me, I added a shopping basket on the front carrier (I had found that abandoned along the wayside, not nicked it!), and yesterday I took over 50kg of donations from the SHRUB's Zero Waste Hub to Fresh Start, and later filled a gap on the evening's food collection rota with CBM.

Here's a picture of the bike before I started personalising it 😊



The Veloe has a frame lock, which I like, and I invested in a hex key skewer for the front wheel, and a decent lock (although I then found a clip on YouTube showing how frighteningly easy it is to pick).



One of the last things I had done with the Bergamont before it was stolen was help out overnight carrying water to the walkers all around the course on the Moonwalk, and David has kindly said that for next year's event I can borrow a bigger battery to allow me to volunteer to do that again.

I have already done over 300 miles since I got it and here are two photos of the cargo bike in action 21/11/23, doing what it is made for:

