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: J.Woodings, 16 Short Lane, Earton-under-Needwood, Staffs. D. A. Secretary

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#### EDITORIAL .

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and can look forward to a really good cycling year. A few years ago it was the custom for members of the Derby Section to "ride in" the New Year but I have not heard of it being carried out in recent years. I hope this is not another event gone by the wayside.

Listening to Derby kadio local news just before Christmas a wellknown Derby cycle dealer was asked if he thought the rising cost of motoring would effect the cycle trade. The dealer replied saying he was very pleased with his present business at the cycle trade was booming, he forecast this : ... ld continue and that there would be a shortage of bicycles early in the new year, This sounds excellent news and I only hope the cycle boom continues.

The rising cost of motoring is surely going to hit all motorists and everybody but I cannot see the pleasure motorist solling his car and buying a bicycle. Nowadays a motor car is a status symbol even if the owner pushes it out of the garage, cleans it and pushes it back again. Then there is the type who owing to the high cost of repairs will leave what he considers some trivial repair needed until something else goes wrong , or he can afford it, in the meantime he is a potential danger to other road users. Perhaps I am a pessimist

but I cannot see many motorists becoming cyclists "it is just not done fellah". They will manage, to get their pleasure motoring somehow.

Instead of counting our cyclists before they've joined let us see what we can do about making our existing members more enthusiastic. During the mat year I have published the names of 35 new rembers in Awheel, out of a total of 280 in the D.a. Why did they join and where have got to?

The are now entering a New Year with a new D.A.

Eccretary so it is up to every member to pull
his socks up and support the D.A. in every way.

What about a Publicity Officer for a start?.

I see there is to be an Ideal Homes Exhibition

in Derby on Jan. 7th-11th. What a chance we have
missed in not having a stand, a keen Publicity

Officer would have known about this and we would
have been in. We should take every opportunity to

be our flag flying and show the general public

that cycle touring still exists.

#### D. a. DIARY.

29th Jan. : Section Slide Eattle at Eurton. 12th Feb. : Section Slide Eattle at Derby. Section clubroom.

15th March : D.A.Lecture. 4th May : Treasure Hunt. 1st June : Rough Stuff Ride. 7th Sept. : Standard Rides.

5th Oct. : Annual Church Service.

12th Oct. : Hill Climb. 25th Oct. : D.A.Lecture.

#### SLIDE BATTLE

Do not forget your slides for this annual event must be received by George Clapton by 15th Jan. at the latest, before if possible.

D. A. PUBLICITY OFFICER.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that this position should be filled as soon as possible for the well-being of the D.A. and the C.T.C. in general.

Would any member wishing to assist in publicising our events, section news and other activities to the local Press and Radio please give their names to the secretary or any committee member. A member in this position can do a lot of good work for the D.A. by keeping cycle touring in the mind of the general public.

. . . . . . . . . . . . .

D. A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The D.A. A.G.M. was held on 1st December 1974 at the Womens Institute, Little Eaton. As per usual it was late in startingand even so when it did start members were very scarce on the floor, a maximum of 20 present out of a total of 280, it speaks for itself.

Mr. A. Barlow was elected to the chair. Mr.L.Northern was elected President and Mr.C.W. Beard Vice President. The Secretary's job had to be held over as no one wished to take it on, so the meeting carried on. Mr.G. Bird took over the Treasurer's job from Ian Yates who had to give up through studies. Mrs. Sheila Williams contin ued with the job of Membership Secretary and Mr. J. Wallis agreed to carry on with the editor's job. a job he has done extremely well over the last year. Mr.R. Wright was to continue as Awheel Sales and Mr. G. R. Clapton agreed to carry on with the duplicating until such times as another member will take over. It was then that after some deliberation with his fellow members Mr.J. Woodings offered his services as a Secretary, this was accepted and the business of the meeting continued. There were no volunteers for the vacancy of Press Secretary. This is an extremely important position for a lot can be done to publicise the activities

of the D.A. .

ir.G.Brown agreed to carry on as delegate to other committees.

The following D.A. fixtures were agreed.

D. A. Lecture Merch 15th.

Treasure Hunt May 4th. Organised by Alfreton Section.

Rough Stuff Ride June 1st. Organised by Burton Section.

Standard Rides Sept 7th. Organised by Derby Section.

d Church Service October 5th.

Fill Climb October 12th. Organised by Burton Section.

D. A. Lecture October 25th.

Cwing to lack of support there will be no heat of the B.C.T.C. this year.

It was agreed that again our affiliation fee to the C.P.R.E. Midlands Group be paid.

It was suggested that the Awheel article prize should come from D.A. funds and that it should be brought up in committee each year.

The first committee meeting will be held on Saturday January 25th at 6.30pm.

G.R.O.

#### IFTTERS RECEIVED.

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#### THE DERBY D.A.

I rather think that most members who attended the recent Derby District Association Annual General Meeting did not realise that I have taken on the Secretary's position for twelve months only. I have no intention of continuing unless there is a vast improvement in support for the District Association's fixtures and social events, in which case I may reconsider this position next sevember. In our brief adjournment at the rear of the room during the annual general meeting Burton members promised to help and support me

during the year, this is one reason why Gordon is taking over writing Burton Section notes for Awheel.

. . .

You, the members of Derby District Association can do your share by taking part in the cycling fixtures arranged at the annual general meeting and so in turn show the organisers that these events are needed, this goes also for the social events..

I shall welcome any help, information or criticism"in the running of the District Association. If you do not wish to write to me, write to the Awheel editor Jim Wallis, he too is after material for the Awheel and do not forget if you wish to remain anonymous tell Jim, your letter will be published if it is suitable and contains your name, Jim will fix you up with a fictitious one. Burton members now appear to control the District Association, do you want this to continue, if not come along to the next annual general meeting with alternative suggestions and say so. I have just been looking at the 1974 Awheel articals and Burton members have monopolised the articles, discounting letters and section reports. eleven articles were from Burton members , five were from Derby, four were anonymous, and others were from Arthur, G.B. and Hugo Miles. So remember Jim's plea for more articles for our magazine and how about his plea for a District Association Publicity Officer, is this another position to be taken by a Burton member.

John.

CYCLISTS ON THE HIGH PEAK TRAIL

219 House process of the

The following is a copy of letter from the County Planning Officer received by Mr.G.Brown, our representative on the Users of the Countryside Committee.

See page No.6

Dear Sir, 6th November 1974 Cyclists on the High Peak Trail

The Countryside Warden has reported to me an incident involving a group of seven cyclists who ran down a two-year-old child on the High Peak Trail and failed to stop after the accident. Thilst I am not suggesting that these were necesserily members of any club affiliated to your organisation, I would be grateful if you could cap asise through your circulars and other publications the terms on which cyclists may use the Trail and other similar facilities, i.e. that at all times pedestrians have the prior right of way and both cyclists and horse-riders are require i to give way to pedestrians. This is the first unpleasant incident of its kind as far as I am aware, and hopefully it will prove to be an exceptional case of irresponsibility. (Tr. party of cyclists involved included adults and young people). The County Council is anxious to provide facilities which cyclists may use togotter with horse-riders and pedestrians, and I

haviour can allow all users to share the trails without conflict.

Yours faithfully,
H. Cowley

#### County Planning Officer

am cure that you will agree that responsible be-

Having read the report of this unfortunate incident it is up to all members of the Cyclists Touring Club when riding on The High Peak and Tissington Trails to observe the conditions , ride in the correct manner and see that all other cyclists do likewise.

#### JIM NORMAN.

It will come as a great shock to many of the older members of the Derby D. A. to hear of the death of Jim Norman a stalwart of the C.T.C. both

here in Derby and Nottingham, he passed away on December 12th after ashort illness.

Jim and his wife Gladys were familiar figures on their tandem at all our major events and with Albert Chapman as organiser of the Matlock Rally. He was also Chief Consul for Derbyshire and our Councillor for many years.

He will be sadly missed both here and in his cir. D. A. for his cycling career stretched from 1920 up to a fortnight tofore his death.

G.R.C. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

#### NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS. ALFRETON.

Alfreton Section members really enjoyed the Annual Dinner, a good meal in pleasant surroundings with enjoyable entertainment afterwards. The day after the dinner was a real stinker weather wise with the rain pouring down when I reacched Ambergate. Fred Dolman arrived from Eurton and after a cuppa we made our way towards Crich taking the road through Fritchley. The morning was really murky with mist as we climbed into Crich. Dinner was at Mrs. Harrison's where we were joined by the rest of Burton Section who had come via Whatstandwell.

In the afternoon we cycled down through Wingfield Park and up into Pentrich village, the run was to Hammersmith to search for the "Bridge on a Bridge" which we found in a field on the right hand side at the bottom of the hill that leads from Fentrich to Ripley. A rough road passes through the bottom bridge and leads towards Lower Hartshay. On the top of this bridge is built another which carried

the old Ripley - Heanor Gate railway line but this has been dismantled for some years. To make it more unusual a railway line also passed under the upper bridge, this line was used to carry coal from Hartshay Pit to Butterley Ironworks many years ago. In time gone by the land where

. ......

Betterley Ironworks. After having a good look record the bridges the Burton Section made their by towards Ripley. Bidding them goodbye I cycled the short distance home.

The first Sunday in December was the D.A. A:G.M.

Mick and myself left Ambergate for Belper Lane

The then on to Farnah Green for dinner. After
we'ds making our way along the back lanes to

Defield, then over to Little Eaton.

ig. in the meeting was poorly supported with only

members present. everything went off quite

in and all the important offices were filled.

Woodings becoming Hon Secretary and Gordon

July Hon. Treasurer. After the meeting Mick

ited me home for tea and Dylis put on a really

meal for us.

The third Sunday in December we had a short round and about run being joined by a new rider, Stephen

To Ripley.
Le ving Ambergate we took the steep climb up to-

mels the Packhorse, then followed downhill through Alderwasley to Whatstandwell. From here we climbed towards Crich and part way we paused to mairie the fine view of river, canal and railway then continued into Crich for dinner. After dinner we had a look at the large goldfish would in the garden across from Mrs. Harrison's, most of the fish were out of sight in the weeds trying to keep warm. Next we went up to Crich Stand but the view was spellt by storm clouds that seemed to ring the nky, also the wind blew bitterly cold with a little rain to make conditions unpleasant. Leaving Crich we rode through Wingfield Park on a cold afternoon that seemed to be keeping the motorists indoors. Crossing the River Amber we rode up the steep climb into Pentrich and dropped down into Hammersmith to have another look at the "Bridge on a Bridge" before making our way home. Arthur.

BURTON.

Many readers of Awheel will know by now that I have taken the recently vacated place on the Derby District Association Committee of Secretary. I am sure that you will all join me in thanking Bill Turton for the valued work he has done on our behalf in the past.

Rather surprisingly despite the continued wet weather attendances have been quite good on section runs. Our last clubrun in November was led by Gordon to Hammersmith Bridge, reeting Arthur Barlow at Crich he expressed interest and led us to where he believed it stood close to Ripley. We found a disused railway line crossing a lane by a bridge, nothing unusual in that you may think but at the same spot a second disused railway at a higher level crossed the first railway and the lane. Certainly unique but not in quite such pleasant surroundings as the similar one at Devils Bridge in Wales that comes to mind. Do readers know of other examples?.

The following week the section attended the District Association Annual General Meeting at Little Eaton, this was not very well supported.

However we had a pleasant ride and we found a handy place for elevenses on the Derby Ashbourne road about a mile from Mackworth where a Little Chef has recently opened. Before the annual meeting we met Jim Wallis by appointment who took us a very interesting guided tour of his village.

This was taken mainly by field footpaths to several disused quarries which had interesting features. Anyway thanks a lot Jim we learn something all the time, especially from local knowledge.

A week later the section visited another curio, this was a canal footbridge which has two towers one on each bank and is crowned with battlements. Rather unusual but one of those things to attract the cycle tourist and is situated about opposite

the entrance to Drayton Manor near Tamworth. During the morning we paid a brief visit to the railway preservation society at Shackerstone, a brisk walk round the locomotives revealed little activity.

ian led a pleasant run to Bradgate Park, this included several choice pieces of rough stuff. During the morning we called on our past secretary at Calke. Both Ian and I wanted to see him and whilst we settled our business Chris, entertained us to a welcome brew, thanks a lot.

Congratulations are due to Bernard Prior who has recently been promoted to assistant manager of - . his travel company in Fortsmouth. Well done Bernie.

I thought that the Annual District Association dinner went down fairly well at the Newton Park Hotel and have heard of only one adverse critic. I attended the recent Mercia Cycling Club's dinner at the same venue and the meal was not as good as the C.T.C. but the speeches were superior.

Arrangements are now going ahead for the next Easter Tour, this will be to Yorkshire where members will participate in the Annual Rough Stuff Fellowship meet, This is to be based at Settle where accommodation at Guest Houses and Youth Hostels is to be booked.

Finally, owing to pressure of business Gordon is taking over the writing up of Burton Section nctes in the New Year from me. So may I end with wishing all readers of Awheel a very happy and pros- ... 4 201 - 12 - 2 2-1 - 4 7 percus New Year. 

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where the contract at the season

DERBY.

Sorry, no report received.

RUNS LISTS
ALFRETON SECTION.

Hon. Sec. : M. Bailey, 10 Thorpe Way, Belper, Derbys. DE5 1GB.

Start : Hurt Arms Hotel, Ambergate.

12th Jan. : Russian Gottage. L. Little Longstone.

19th Jan. : Osmaston Park.

L. Ellastone. Arthur.

26th Jan. : By the Water.

L. Ashover. Mick.

2nd Fet. : Ducks on the Water.

L. Over Haddon. Alan.

9th Feb. : Over the Hills.

L. Earl Sterndale. Arthur.

BURTON SECTION

Hon. Sec. : J. Woodings, 16-Short Lane, Barton-under- Needwood, Staffs.

Start : Abbey Arcade, High Street, Eurton-on-Trent.

Will runs leaders please note that the Abbey Arcade should be left no later than 10 minutes after the time stated.

S. Start. L. Lunch T. Tea.

12th Jan : Rocester Church. P.Rose. S. 9.30am.

L. Ellastone.

19th Jan. : Matlock Towers. G. Bird.

S. 9.30nm. L. Crich.

26th Jan. : Hawksmoor

S. 9.30am. T. Williams.

L. Ellastone.

1st Feb. : Shining Cliff Y.H.

2nd Feb. : Oberthorpe Obelisk. G. Bird.

S. 9. 30am. L. Crich.

9th Feb. : Mt. St. Bernards Abbey. I. Yatoz S. 9.30am. L. Woodhouse Eaves. RUNS LISTS

BURTON SECTION ......continued,

t6th Feb. : Bosworth Field. T. Williams

S 9.30am.

L. Norton-juxta-Twycross.

23rd Feb. : Castle Ring. J. Woodings.

S. 9. 30am.

L. Springslade Farm.

The next section committee meeting will be on Saturday 22nd February at 7.30pm, Gordon Bird's, Tood Street, Burton-on-Trent.

Bookings required now for Easter Tour, Bed and Breakfast, see John Woodings, for Youth Hostel book through Ian Yates, hostel secretary.

Booking for Youth Hostel weekends should be made through Y.H.A. Sec. Ian Yates, give plenty of notice.

DEREY SECTION.

Hon. Sec. : G.R. Clapton, 22 Kew Gardens, Mackworth Estate, Derby DE3 4AJ.

Runs Sec. : Mrs. J. Smith, 47 Brisbane Rd.

Mickleover, Derby. Tele. Derby 52108.

Start : Public Library, The Wardwick, Derby.

See also Weekend Diary in Derby: Evening Telegraph on Fridays.

Clubroom : St. John's Social Centre,

. . . Mill Street, Derby.

Wednesdays 7.45pm to 10.30pm.

Sorry no runs list received,

WINTER CLUBROOM PROGRAMME.

15th Jan. : Lecture by Mr. D. Wakefield on his

holiday in America.

29th Jan. : Slide Battle at Eurton.

12th Feb. : Slide Battle at Derby.

5th March : Exchange Mart.

19th March : Cine Film.

2nd April : Bingo.

RUNS LISTS. DERBY SECTION.

WINTER CLUBROOM PROGRAMME. .... continued. 23rd April : Lecture by Mr W. Robinson.

Will members please note that events for 15th Jan. and 12th Feb. have been altered to those shown on their Clubroom Programme Cards.

MERCIA DESPATCH

... Hon. Sec. : P.Rose, 123 Priory Lends,

Stretton, Eurton-on-Trent,

Staff's. DE13 ONJ.

Clubroom : Alma Inn, Cross Street,

Eurton-on-Trent. 8.Cpm on Mondays.

Start of runs : Derby Turn Inn, 9.Cam Sundays. See Burton Daily Mail for details.

Sorry no report received for January.

TO SET YOU THINKING

The cyclist from Beertown got cut his wheels (Froddie) and set forth on the last day of March. It was a lovely summer afternoon and the first things he noticed were white boxes on wheels, (peoples homes) and so a left turn through a place which he thought it would take a few thousand to make a ton. So he went left again and there were more white boxes which were intended more for pleasure. A right turn at a lake which reminded him of a Silver King oil lamp. This lane crossed a main road into another which the first part could well be a famous Pottery design. The next thing he saw was location 106 and that is protty rodorn. So left and to pass a church on a hill, and bearing left there was further on a Methodist Chapel 1874. No celebrations here, empty and quiet. A pause on a bridge, a mill in view and a son of

toil rotavating a ton of soil. So he rode on toturn left on a lane (Not a short one) but a short run to a left turn to overlook the place he had just ridden through, could be a long car of popular name and passed a farm Not Gold Hill but something quite valuable. Down over a brook and up the other side to pause and ignore the health warning on the packet. Looking across he saw the church on the hill plus some concrete towers in the background. Then onward and a right turn followed by a quick left. There was the name "Littleworth", extensions there and Bow Windows could easily make this place (Bigworth). Here wheels went left to a place which reminded the cyclist of the boy the sings out of tune. A church up a bank on the left and by a pub "Flower and Headgarr" and left by:a cottage suffering from im-· provements. Surprising what builders can do with a couple of sledgehammers, a pile of bricks and coment, not forgetting a barrel of "whitewash". There was these perforated walls to let the wind through. Could it be that a man named Twiss lived around here (not Oliver). So left and a steady drop to right turn and to come out at Brands Hatch much nearer than the stocks in the village. Then it was left by a portable crane belonging to Sykes Pump Co. nothing to do with "Bill" or Oliver. Another church . plain square tower and a pub. A strong man with a tree in his arms? and so he passed a place and the man on the tele, ad, prefers this drink not the stuff in the big drum which lasts a long time and so by a small church. The gate 1914-1918 and so right a rail crossing. Rails going right would lead to bottle-necks in 5 places (not roads) and over a bridge the water below represented Peace (a bird) which the cyclist thought was the peace he enjoyed on this pleas-ant Sunday afternoon. So through the last place where the road follows a brook for a few hundred yards and back to starting point. ?Where did the "Acetvlene Gas". rider go?.

#### WELSH STEAM

I recently had the pleasure of a trip on the Severn Valley railway between Bridgnorth and Bewdley in Shropshire. The train was hauled by an old steam locomotive, the sight and sounds bringing back many nostalgic memories of long hours in the school holidays spent taking "numbers and names" at one now closed railway station. Years ago steam locomotives seldom were looked at twice, now if one is seen at work it is a different tale. I know in Burton Section over the years we have made several visits to railway preservation societies ground the midlands and further afield when we have been on "Tour".

The Severn Valley Railway is the finest I have seen, and it is on the road to Wales which has always been popular with cycle tourists, but I worder how many readers know that Wales has the finest selection of working narrow gauge railways in Britain. All eight of them use stean locomotives, and linked together would make a very pleasant cycle tourof the Principality.

The nearest system to England is the Welshpool and Llanfair Caereinion Light Railway with head-quarters situated on the A458 on the outskirts of Llanfair Caereinion. Its trains run along a very undulating line for 5½ miles to Sylfaen every weekend from early April to October and daily from mid July to early September. I had the pleasure of a journey on this line last Spring Eank Holiday for the return fare of 50p. The steam locomotive in use on the day of our visit originated from Austria.

The only steam locomotive still running by British Rail can be seen on the Vale of Rheidol Railway between Aberystwyth and the Devil's Bridge. This is the longest narrow gauge journey in Wales and is possibly the finest value at 55p return for 23½ miles return journey. Unfortunately although I have been to Devil's Bridge several times I have yet to pay a visit when the line is in use.

Another fine railway winding into the mountains from sea level is the Festiniog Railway which runs from Porthmadog the 9½ miles to Dduallt. I have seen trains on this line several times but have yet to travel on the line. Return fares are 90p if you wish to travel 3rd class, although cheaper returns are available on off peak trains.

A railway unique in Britain is the Snowdon Mountain Railway, this commences from Llanberis and takes one hour to reach the 3560ft summit of Snowdon. The railway is steam operated with a central toothed track for adhesion, this system is quite common in mountain railways in Europe, especially the Alps. Again I've yet to see this railway operating

The first railway in Britain to be saved by volunteers is the Talyllyn Railway. This too runs through fine scenery for 6% miles otween Towyn and Abergynolwyn. The return journey costs 50p but economy fares are available. I did see this line in use several years ago but it yet to travel on it.

The smallest railway is situated at Fairbourne across the Mawddach Estuary from Barmouth, it runs for 2 miles alongside the beach on a 15in. gauge. I've not seen this line operating, but it's return fare is 25p.

The latest railway to open is the Hala Lake Railway, this runs from the old railway station. Illanuwchllyn for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles along Lake Hala on the track of the former Great Western Railway. When the section was there at the Spring Hank Holiday, only diesel trains were running but they were hoping to have steam locos in the by late summer. The return fare is 40p.

To be continued. John.

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