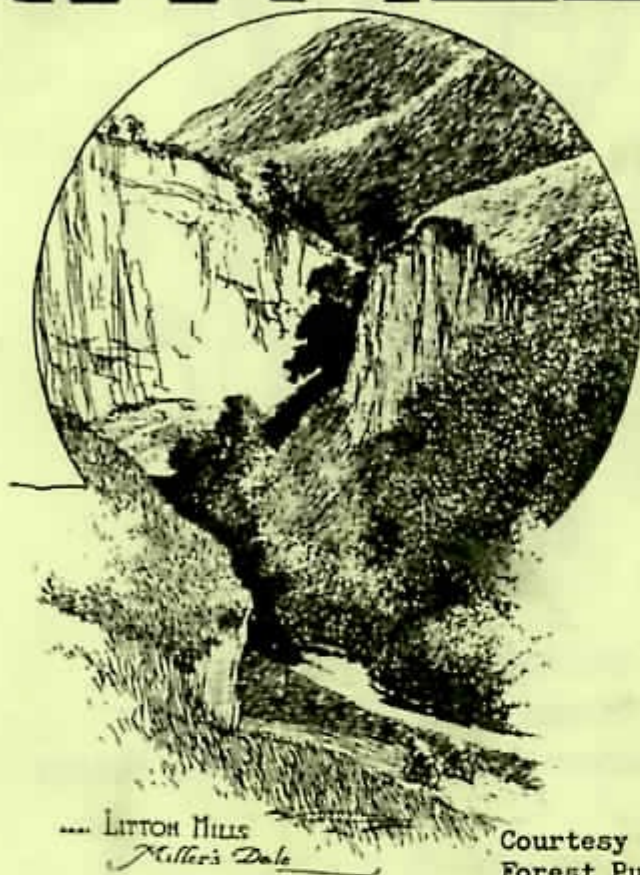


CYCLISTS TOURING CLUB DERBY DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

AWHEEL

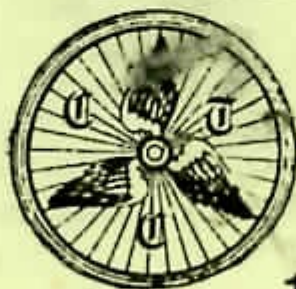


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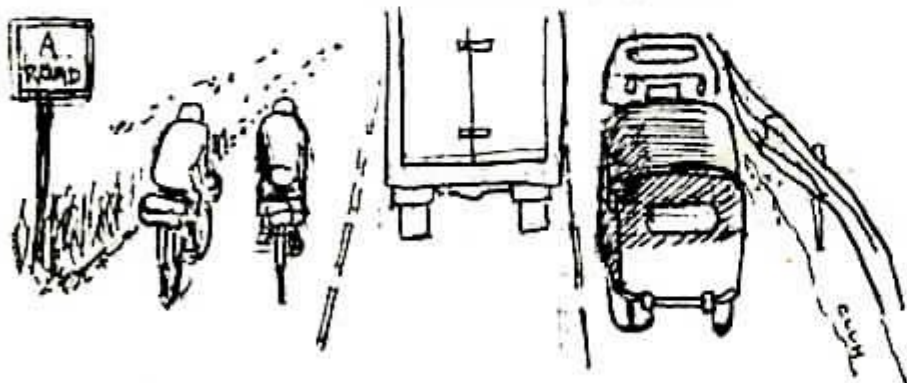
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DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE 30 MAYEDITORIAL

It has always surprised me, that as an organisation whose members enjoy and benefit from the beauty of the British countryside the C.T.C., at all levels, seems to take only a limited interest in the subject of conservation. Our fellow walking enthusiasts the Ramblers Association encourage the protection of the countryside as a place of quiet, enjoyable recreation and promote it as such with the aims of ramblers in mind. It would seem therefore that the C.T.C. should likewise canvas on behalf of its members for protection of not only cycling routes but any areas of Britain that are regarded as under the threat of 'development'. In this way cyclists would be "putting back" into this land some of the benefits they have taken out, by enjoying it.

On a local level, this D.A. is affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and whilst we pay a nominal sum each year we by no means get actively involved with them, in their duty of preserving our countryside.

On a section level, attempts could be made to study the local area and lend support to appropriate causes that pursue the aims I have written about. I feel until we do encourage and get actively involved in the maintenance of our countryside, we have no reason to complain should it become one great motorway network.



Secretary's Line.

At our recent D.A.Comm. meeting I was very pleased to hear that preparations were well in hand for our D.A. events the first of these will be the Rough Stuff ride on April 28th and which by the time you receive this Awheel will have come and gone, I trust that all who entered enjoyed themselves. National Bike Week this year is to be from May 11th to May 19th, the D.A. will not be promoting anything but I believe that the Sections are lining something up, so please do your best to support them.

I hope that most of you have now drawn up your plans for your big holiday, if you are thinking of going abroad I'm sure that Bernard Prior from the Burton Section will be only too pleased to fix you up with your tickets, but if you prefer this country your choice is very wide. If the forecasters are to be believed then we appear to be in for a good summer.

The Easter break for which I have always looked forward to will have come and gone, I hope that you have taken advantage of it for after the long dreary winter it's nice to get out into the spring air with all its freshness. For myself I shall be joining the R.S.F. at Aberystwyth an area that is not unfamiliar to me it being first choice for the Section Easter break.

G.R.Clapton
Hon Sec..

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DERBY SECTION

Section Secretary: Clara Hawkins

Runs Secretary: Steve Rose

Report on Open meeting (27th March)

In the absence of our secretary I took the chair and led the assembled throng of staunch Derby Section members through the now ritual rigours of runs planning and catering rota. I was pleased to see George Clapton at the meeting who was able to contribute in suggesting suitable runs destinations through his not inconsiderable cycling experiences.

The most important item on the agenda turned out to be 'any other business' as it was here that Jim Thomas our Treasurer had to report that due to falling clubroom attendences the section was (and still is) running at a loss. The deficit however is not a big one so the meeting agreed to try to offset these losses by introducing a small (50p) levy on evening rides this year. (Evening rides to start on Wed. 5th June).

We planned rides to cover weekends up to May 18/19th which is of particular note as it is the first time the section will take advantage of the camp site in Meriden as we have organised a camping weekend. This will give us the chance to visit the C.T.C. A.G.M. in Coventry on the Saturday as well as the Cyclists' Memorial Service on the Sunday, I hope we shall have a good attendance.

The catering rota was planned without much trouble. Lets hope that all who have taken on this grave responsibility actually remember to turn up on the night.

One last point, to help club funds.....

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DERBY SECTION RUNS REPORTS

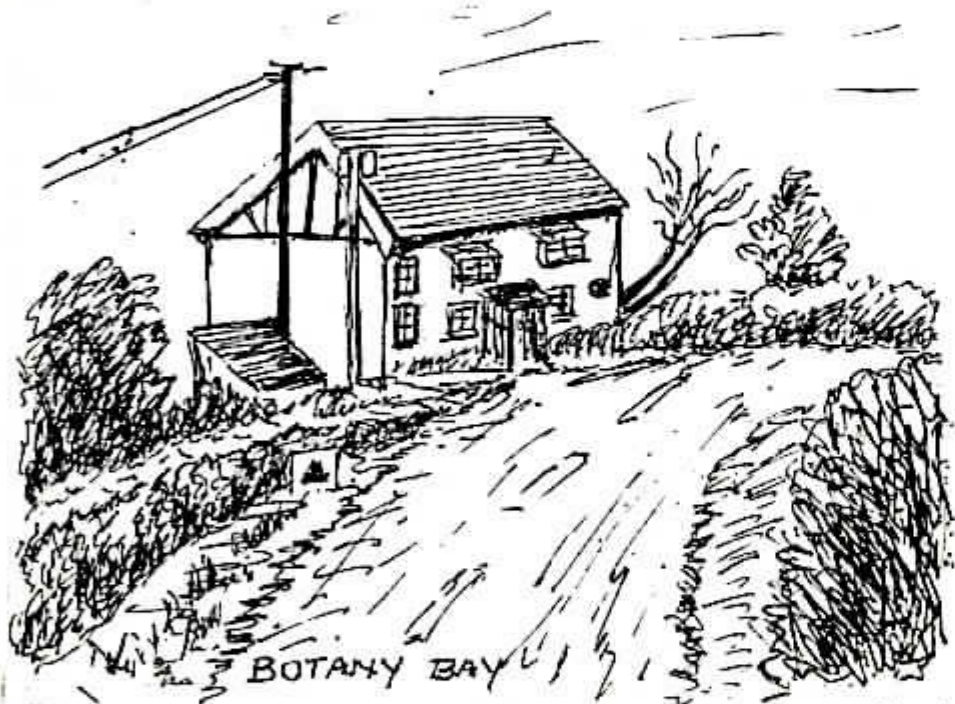
Once more I bring glad tidings of what Derby Section has 'got up to' over the last six or seven weeks. This column gets more and more difficult to write, as I try to compose novel ways of describing a route home through Hole in the Wall or down Long Lane. However in what follows I hope I have succeeded.

On the 10th February I was down to lead a ride to the Weaver Hills. When I arrived at the Wardwick there was only one other rider present, and so it was only Clare and I that headed out of town in a Westerly direction. We decided upon Long Lane as a route out of the suburbs, and took this road as far as Longford turning there for Rodsley, and Shirley where we went into Osmaston Park. Here the trees sheltered us from what was a strong wind and it was a pleasant awareness of spring as the sun warmed our backs as we cycled down towards the lake. We stopped at the lake for a five minute break and then carried on up the track into Osmaston village, from where we joined the A52 and went into Ashbourne for that Sunday morning necessity, a hot cup of tea. Turning for home now we took a more southerly course out of Ashbourne to Edlaston and Yaveley, where a work colleague of mine was indulging in another Sunday pastime (other than cycling that is) of washing his car. On we cycled through 'familiar lanes' and 'familiar villages' whose names I'm sure you can all recite like multiplication tables, notably Alkmonton, Church Broughton, Sutton on the Hill and Dalbury.

The 24th February was the day of the Pub Grub Run, postponed from an earlier date in the year due to bad weather. Again I led this ride, though this time with a stronger attendance of 8 other riders. With the destination being the Knockerdown Inn near Carsington I chose a tortuous route (to consume time) out of Derby which led through Little Eaton, Makeney and Milford. After crossing the A6 we took the Chevin side road and then doubled back on ourselves to climb on top of the ridge to the Progress cafe where we managed to persuade the proprietors to open early to serve us with pots of tea, etc. Continuing the ride I found plenty of hills to lead the group up (through

Idridgehay, Kirk Ireton and Hopton) and so it was nearly one o'clock when we all arrived at the Knockerdown and had ordered our food. In the pub we met Jim and Pete who had travelled up individually, Pete the correct way using pedal power and Jim the not so correct way using petrol power. However we all sat down to a good meal and once more Steve Parkins said we should do this more often. Having only just put off a mutiny during the morning due to the amount of hill climbing involved, I decided for my own safety that I would take an easier route home and so chose the direct course through Hognaston and then Hilland Ward, etc.

On the 3rd March Steve Parkins led a ride to Attenborough Nature Reserve. It was a wet day and on reaching their destination they decided to go into a pub for lunch and to dry out. Unfortunately they did not choose a good one and so were forced to leave before they had taken full advantage of it.



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Under this grey cloud of disappointment they cycled home.

The next Sunday was a ride to Chatsworth House. First stop was Norma's cafe on the A6 and then the steep climb onto Beeley Moor from Holloway was encountered. This proved too much for Clare who had to turn for home. The remainder of us cycled on for a few minutes when Kevin suddenly remembered that Clare had his sandwiches in her saddlebag (Kevin not having a saddlebag on his bike). So Kevin and I turned for home with the idea of catching up with the Derby-bound sandwiches, whilst the rest of the group cycled steadily on to Chatsworth. Unfortunately, Kevin's sandwiches decided to travel down the canal towpath from Cromford to Ambergate whilst their pursuers went down the A6. The inevitable happened in that Kevin and I ended up back in Derby with no Clare and no sandwiches. But we only had to wait a few minutes for both to arrive. Meanwhile the remaining cyclists were gallantly continuing, and got to Chatsworth at about 1.30. After lunching alfresco they too turned on to the A6 and did the slog back to Derby down that beautiful road.

With the weather looking decidedly wet, on the Friday of

the next weekend I think all 7 of us who had opted to go on the Youth Hostel trip to Dimmingsdale were somewhat apprehensive. Nevertheless we needn't have worried as it only rained about half a day. We set off at 7.30, an early start because we were going to visit the Gladstone Pottery Museum on the outskirts of Stoke before resting the night at Dimmingsdale. We took the main road out of Derby to Uttoxeter and turned off at Marston on Dove to go through Tutbury and then Marchington, skirting south of Uttoxeter until we joined the B5017 to pick up Kevin from Ashbourne.

Shortly after leaving Uttoxeter Pete had a puncture and we all relished the opportunity of the break to discuss serious topics like the baking of sponge cakes, etc. Continuing on we arrived at the museum at about 11.30, rather wet since the promised rain had started to fall around about 8 or 10 miles out of Stoke.

Nearly all the afternoon was spent in the museum, including lunch which we were allowed to eat in the museum's cafe. We all enjoyed the museum, the demonstration of the various methods of production of the pottery I found particularly interesting.

The visit had its funny moments too with the occupation (made famous before my time on 'Whats My Line') of the sagger makers bottom knocker causing amusement, as did the example of a typical menu for a pottery worker during the 19th Century which featured amongst many curious recipes a porridge like concoction which was apparently called 'lumpy turns'. On a more sombre note the examples given of premature death due to working in the confines of the pottery trade were a reminder of the benefits of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Leaving Longton in a northerly direction we headed for Dimmingsdale. Again it was raining and we were glad to see the back of suburbia with all its shabby colours in such weather. It was only about 10 miles to the hostel although I made it longer by missing a turning and going down into Oakmoor before realising my mistake.

The hostel was alive with orienteers when we arrived there being a competition the following day. Nevertheless we settled down to dry our clothes, have a cup of tea and cook something to eat. Once more the conversation flowed as quickly as the tea and we discussed the merits of woks against frying pans and how to bake sponge cakes, etc.

Early morning and the rain had disappeared, and we set off down into Oakamoor and then out again climbing the hill up to Whiston. Pete and Tracey had taken a different route from the hostel in order to be back in Derby early and at about 11 am. Clare, Kevin and I decided to do the same. We took a route through Farley to Ellastone, and so on to Long Lane. Meanwhile the 2 remaining riders, Jim and Pete, battled on up over the Weaver Hills, skirted Ashbourne to reach Tissington for a lunch stop. Then back to Derby through Hognaston, Hulland Ward and Kedleston, etc. On this occasion we all said that we must arrange a weekend like this again.

Finally, on the 31st March we had a lunch run out to the plate layers hut on the High Peak Trail. Tim led us on a hilly route which almost followed last years 'Standard Ride' of a hilly 30 miles in 3 hours. We went through Quarndon, Weston Underwood, down through Ireton Wood, then into Kirk Ireton itself and climbed out to Hopton where we turned right to join up with the High Peak Trail which we took to bring us down to the plate layers hut which is just after the Black Rock Picnic Site. We were delayed before our arrival by Steve Parkins suffering a puncture but our waiting time was entertained by the arrival of Roy who had rode with us on the Chatsworth House run though was today out on his own his destination being Buxton.

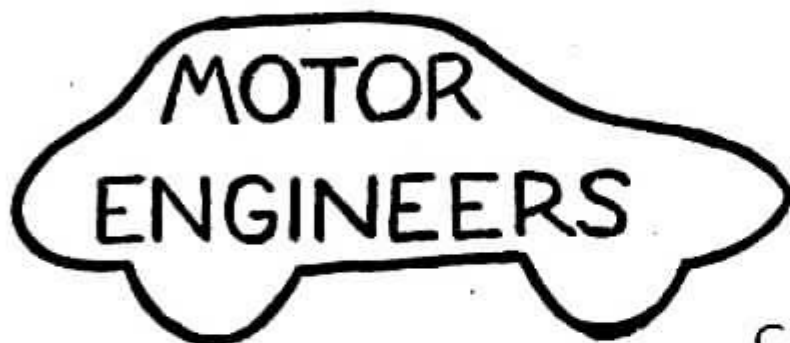
On arrival at the hut (which resembles something like a neolithic cave) stores were unloaded, and the place was soon filled with the noise of hot sizzling fat coming in particular from the tranguia of Steve Parkins who proceeded to cremate his bacon. Things got more interesting when Paul Allen stole the limelight by delicately balancing a cooked sausage on a piece of bread, the inevitable happened

as the sausage made a bid for freedom and ended up on the floor. Finally, Steve took things a little too far as he tossed his spent fat from his frying pan outside, unbeknowing that it went all over Jim's front wheel.

Leaving the hut we rode further down the High Peak Trail onto Cromford Wharf where we turned onto the canal towpath for a short (muddy) distance down to Ambergate where tea was taken before the stretch of the A6 back to Derby was cycled.

Steve Rose.

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AWHEEL WITH BURTON SECTION - FEBRUARY/MARCH 1985

There was a poor turnout for John's ride to the Chasewater Railway on 27th January. Due to blizzards the party made their way through Catton Park and Whittington to Lichfield for coffee, before turning through Fradley to reach John's house at Barton for lunch.

Due to the poor weather conditions everyone then turned for home in early afternoon.

There were a dozen at the Abbey Arcade the following Sunday on a mild and overcast morning for Ian Hill's ride to Halter Devil Chapel. From Sutton-on-the-Hill quiet undulating twisting lanes led through Longford and Rodsley to Ashbourne for coffee.

Three riders turned for home here whilst the remainder encountered mist and light drizzle on the direct route over the hills to the lunch stop at the Red Lion, Wirksworth.

David Scrivener from Matlock joined the party for lunch and rode with them above the Ecclesbourne Valley to Kirk Ireton and the days objective, situated near to Hlland Ward.

Unfortunately, the ancient and tiny chapel couldn't be entered as the custodian farmer in the attached farmhouse was not at home.

The homeward route took the party past the assorted garden ornamental animals of Over Burrows and along narrow winding lanes leading through Osleston and Cropper back to Sutton-on-the-Hill and home as darkness fell.

Unfortunately I could not go on the above ride as my cycles chain jumped into the back wheel near Newton Solney and broke ten spokes, and buckled the cover of the hub. Sid Standard did a great job rebuilding the whole wheel on the following Saturday.

Heavy snow fell in time for the following and by the Sunday most roads were still treacherous, and an icy wind was causing many snow drifts.

In these circumstances nobody else turned up for my ride to Paradise Walk. I set off alone along the main road towards Tutbury but progress was slow due to the snow and wind, and so I soon turned for Hilton and home.

By Saturday 16th February conditions had eased considerably. I met Fred at the Salt Box Cafe, Hatton after lunch for a ride to Meerbrook Youth Hostel.

Snow was still covering the lanes in places as we pedalled past Sapperton ford in bright sunshine. From Marston Montgomery we proceeded up the Dove Valley to El'astone before climbing over the Weaver Hills to seek refreshment at Winkhill.

After telephoning to find that Meerbrook Y.H. was full we proceeded steadily over the Morridge as the sun was rapidly setting behind us with an icy head wind building up. A slow descent into the Dane Valley was called for in case of unexpected black ice on the road.

By 7 o'clock we were in the relative warmth of Gradbach Youth Hostel in the company of lots of ramblers. This

was the first time that we had stayed at this superbly converted riverside mill. The layout was quite spacious although the kitchen could become overstretched if everyone was 'self cooking'.

The next morning dawned bright and frosty. We are amazed to find that a group of scouts had been camping in a field near to the Youth Hostel in such cold weather. We slither up through the snow in Back Wood, as the sun threatens to appear, and bump into Geoff Newey from Manchester at Roach End.

He joined us riding into the wind across the bleak moorland past Royal Cottage and on to the Morridge. We gradually drop towards Winkhill and welcome warmth and refreshments, passing many Army Cadets on exercises on our route across the wild terrain.

A steady climb to Threelows was followed by a swift twisting descent to Oakamoor from where narrow lanes and rough tracks led up to Dirmingsdale Youth Hostel for lunch in the company of the day riders from Burton and David from Matlock.

Seven riders had set out from the Abbey Arcade in cold dry and overcast conditions. After climbing Henhurst Hill steady progress was made past Six Lane Ends to descend the steep Marchington Cliff.

Three riders returned after the refreshment stop at Uttoxeter whilst the others followed the Dove Valley to Denstone before climbing to Alton. At the old smelting mill the meandering Churnet Valley was left in favour of the sandy track leading past the pool up to the Youth Hostel for lunch.

We all followed the snow covered 'upper' track down through the woods to the Ramblers' Retreat cafe before following the snowy Churnet Valley to Alton.

Geoff turns for home here along the old railway track bed leading to Oakamoor whilst the rest of us head through Rocester towards Marston Montgomery where David leaves us.

John has a puncture to mend by Vernons Oak Farm.

The lanes through Boylestone and Church Broughton were much clearer of snow than they had been the previous day no doubt due to the thawing, enabling everyone to reach home before darkness fell.

Spring like weather had developed for Peter Rose's ride to Adam Bede's Cottage on the following Sunday. Thirteen riders left the start in light mist which soon gave way to brilliant, clear, sunny skies.

The peleton passed the magnificent Sudbury Hall before joining the very undulating lanes leading to Marston Montgomery. From Denstone there was a steady climb to Alton before dropping into the Churnet Valley for refreshments at the Rambler's Retreat cafe.

Some followed the old railway trackbed and tracks to Prestwood en route for lunch at the Duncombe Arms, Ellastone whilst others preferred the hillier but less muddy way via Farley. Its surprising to see a ship's funnel over the top of a fence on the Wooton estate!

The Duncombe Arms was very busy due to the presence of a large group of ramblers, but as the weather was warm and mild many people ate their sandwiches in the garden.

Sheila and Tracey made their way homewards whilst the others inspected the village church and its snowdrops before moving across the river to call at Norbury church. The latter adjoins a large Georgian House and contains much ancient restored stained glass and some fine curved tombs.

We continued for a mile or so onto Roston Common to view the much developed exterior of the days objective - Adam Bede's Cottage. This was a setting for part of George Eliot's novel 'Adam Bede'. Only a few internal beams remain of the original building, which is apparently much visited by George Eliot fans and students.

The sun started to sink as wheels were turned homewards

through Thurstaston and Harehill. There was still packed snow on the lane near to Foston Ford on the final miles homewards by way of Scropton, after a superb day a wheel.

The first Sunday in March dawned cool, overcast and windy. Seven riders set off in rain showers over the hills to Repton and Milton. The lane past Ingleby Toft took the group to the Trentside road leading to Swarkestone. From here a head wind slowed progress through Aston and Weston en route for the Little Chef at Sawley Cross Roads.

A Nottingham D.A. Section sought refreshments at the same time as ourselves. Great minds work alike!

We climb through Castle Donnington and pause to watch a 'Viscount' take off from East Midlands Airport. Here, Marjorie, Maria and her friend Ian turn towards home for a late lunch, whilst the remaining quartet proceed to Breedon-on-the-Hill.

Fred found us some nice sheltered tables to sit at outside the closed cafe of a garden centre in the village. We happily consumed our lunch there out of the wind.

One of the quartet was a newcomer. He was Trevor Harbourne, a chef at the Newton Park Hotel, who is a keen cyclist but who has to work on many Sundays.

As the weather was so cool, windy and miserable wheels were turned homewards by way of Calke and Ticknall. Ironically weak sunshine appeared after the decision to cut the ride short had been implemented.

On the evening of Saturday 2nd March about 50 members and friends enjoyed Ben Thomas' excellent slide show 'Road To Morocco'. His account of the travels of 3 cyclists through a very different and hot environment was outstanding. His slides were also excellent, portraying both the landscape and the locals in traditional dress and activities.

The following morning dawned dull and overcast for Fat's

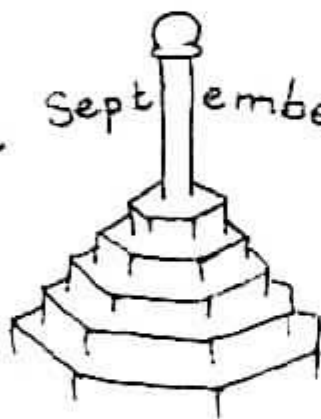
ride to Bosworth Field in Leicestershire.

Around a dozen riders including two new young lads walked across the Ferry Bridge, noticing that only one bridge span of the new road bridge across the Trent remained to be completed.

Quiet byways led through Catton Park to Croxall, where wheels were turned towards Whittington and Lichfield where refreshments were procured.

Retracing wheel marks through Whittington the party pedalled on to cross the Tame at Elford. They continued along quiet undulating lanes through quiet villages such as Clifton Campville and Thorpe Constantine to reach Shackerstone Station for lunch just after 1pm.

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Several other riders had made their way independantly to the railway station, including former section rider Dr. David Bousefield, who now lives near to Broughton Lodge. He advised us that the cafe there on the A46 has reopened under new management whose catering standards are somewhat higher than those of the previous owners. Please note though that the cafe closes at 4pm. on Sundays.

By the time that everyone had eaten steady rain had started to fall. The group were able to leave by the direct station drive route as the station house and drive have been bought by the railway society.

Once in the village some of the riders made their various ways homewards whilst the remainder continued along the lanes to Shenton. Here they found a stone commemorating the spot where King Richard III was slain during the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. He was the last p'antaganet king and this was the last time that a monarch of England was killed in battle.

A little further on the thread stripped on the bottom bracket on one of the newcomers machines. With various riders tools and spares Jim was able to temporarily replace all the parts using some tape to help the threads bind together again.

A strengthening wind replaced the rain showers in hindering progress homewards. The going was not too easy over the rolling hills as riders passed through Sibson and Avstrey en route for Lullington.

From the crocus covered village green in Lullington everyone made their various ways home as darkness started to fall.

Saturday 16th March saw Fred and I meet at the Salt Box Cafe, Hatton in late afternoon to pedal to Dimmingsdale. It was bright but cold as we battled against the wind past Sapperton Ford.

By Boylestone we had to shelter behind a hedge for a few minutes to avoid the worst effects of a passing snow storm. A short time later we were admiring the sunlit snow capped Weaver Hills before swooping down into Rocester.

There was a brilliant sunset as we pedalled along the old railway trackbed from Denstone to Alton. We followed the upper track from the Ramblers' Retreat Cafe to reach the Youth Hostel.

Fred Dolman's wife Beryl was in residence with a party of guides as were some cyclists from the C.T.C. Leicester D.A., including Janet, the former Copt Oak Y.H. warden. Janet was telling us that it is still possible to arrange a pot of tea at Copt Oak on Sunday lunchtimes, providing the warden is given good notice.

The following morning was cold but bright and sunny. Fred and I were accompanied by another two Rough Stuff Fellowship members along the old railway trackbed as far as the old Smelting Mill where we turned up the track leading to Alton Towers.

From Farley we swooped through the glorious beech woods, and paused to look inside the open gates at Waste Farm on the Wooton Estate. There were most of the fittings of the upper deck of a small ship in the concreted farmyard - funnel, bridge, mast, lots of anchor chain, etc.

At the top of the hill where we paused again for breath one could glimpse large herds of deer a long way behind the safety of the ugly grey metal fence. We pressed on through Wootton and over the snow covered Weaver Hills en route for refreshments at the Craft Centre, Cauldon Lowe.

It was very chilly dropping down to Waterhouses, from where the more sheltered Hamps Valley track led to the cafe at Wetton Mill in the company of the riders who had ridden up from Burton that morning.

Six riders had set off from the Abbey Arcade following a lane route via Longford to reach Ashbourne for coffee.

From here Terry and Tracey turned their wheels homewards whilst John, Pat, Marjorie and Ian Hill took the dramatic but very hilly roads over the hills to lead them through Kappleton, Blore and Ilam before descending steeply from Wetton to Wetton Mill for lunch in the sunshine in the company of the motor assisted Bird Family, and the late arriving youth hostellers.

As all the cyclists headed for Weag's Bridge John Horton appeared and joined the party. Whilst Pat and Marjorie headed towards Waterhouses to take a direct route homewards the remaining riders toiled up the steep hill to Grindon.

A lane led to a sticky and somewhat overgrown bridlepath leading to the days objective, the hamlet of Back O' Th' Brook which is hidden in a little valley near to the village of Waterfall.

After cleaning shoes and cycles in the stream at Back O' Th' Brook everyone toiled past Waterfall to reach Waterhouses.

From here the familiar homeward route was followed over the hill to Stanton before taking lanes past Ellastone and Poston to reach the Trent Valley as darkness fell.

Sunday 24th March saw 8 riders heading out of Burton along Newton Road, where Trevor Harbourne joined the party. It was bright and dry as quiet lanes took the

riders through Findern before skirting around Derby by way of Markeaton Crematorium.

A narrow twisting lane was followed from near to Kedleston Park onto Cumberhills, from where the riders enjoyed the freewheel into Duffield.

It was unusual for the route to take the section from Belper up on to Heage Common, from where panoramic but misty views of the Derwent Valley could be enjoyed before needing to brake hard on the steep descent to Ambergate.

After refreshments in Ambergate's Cafe wheels were turned back into the lanes. Progress was soon halted when Pat found that he had a puncture to deal with.

Everyone stopped to admire the fine stone Nether Heage Windmill (internal viewing only by arrangement with Derbyshire County Council), before following an undulating lane taking the course of the Roman Ryknield Street.

An alfresco lunch was enjoyed in the garden of the Rose and Crown, Horsley and completed just before a long and heavy rainy spell.

Having pedalled in the rain through Worley and Stanley the precipitation ceased as the group passed another hill top windmill near to the objective of Dale Abbey.

Only one end wall and a few foundations remain of the late 13th Century abbey. After inspecting the ruins attention was turned to the curious village church which is under the same continuous roof as a house. This is supposed to have developed from a 12th Century hermits chapel and shelter.

The dry period accompanied the riders as they made their way homewards through Borrowash, Chellaston and Willington.

The last ride of the month was to Griffie Grange Sheep Walks. John took about half a dozen riders to Rolleston where the Williams family joined the peloton on a bright, sunny but windy morning.

Whilst following the usual undulating lane route towards Ashbourne from Church Broughton the party caught up with Ted and Kathy on their tandem. They joined the group fighting against a gusty wind en route for welcome refreshments at Fred's Cafe.

Fred Dolman had beaten the group to the cafe and joined them too for the steady climb up past Tissington Ford. The track past Roystone Grange was somewhat muddy due to recent heavy rainfall.

Fred suffered a puncture on the tarmac as everyone was thankful to be blown towards Elton Youth Hostel for lunch.

Eileen, the warden, was very welcoming as usual despite the estimate of ten for cups of tea being exceeded by around fifty per cent as Gordon Bird and Les Lowe had also ridden up from Burton independantly and David Scrivener had made his way from Matlock to join the ride.

A short grassy track led out of the village towards the rough road leading across Bonsall Moor from where a narrow lane dropped steeply to Grange Hill.

From here a grassy track climbed steadily on to Griffie Grange Hill revealing extensive views of the Via Gallia.

After a short rest behind dry stone walls the party skirted a new opencast working before reaching the High Peak Trail.

David joined this track to head homewards via Middleton, whilst everyone else rejoined tarmac to drop steeply through woodland to Hopton.

Wheels then turned homewards along familiar undulating byways taking the riders through Hognaston, Brailsford and Sutton on the Hill.

BURTON SECTION RUNS

Hon. Secretary: John Woodings,

Start: Abbey Arcade, High Street, Burton on Trent.

S - Start Time L - Lunch Stop T - Tea Stop

17th May:	Camp Meriden.	
18th May:	National A.G.M., Coventry.	
19th May:	Meriden Memorial Service.	S. 0800
	L. Meriden	T. Meriden
25/26/27 May:	Spring Bank Holiday.	
	See Section Secretary.	
2nd June:	Little Moreton Hall.	S. 0800
D. Loe	L. Keele	T. Rudyard
9th June:	Lyddington Bede House.	S. 0800
M. Handaker	L. Alfresco	T. Six Hills
16th June:	Wenlock Edge.	S. 0800
I. Lambert	L. Alfresco	T. Penkridge
23rd June:	Stange Pole.	S. 0800
P. Rose	L. Grindleford	T. Crich
30th June:	Gluloe Cross.	S. 0800
P. Wortley	L. Rudyard	T. Wetton Mill
7th July:	Apley Terrace.	S. 0800
I. Hill	L. Alfresco	T. Penkridge
14th July:	Little John's Grave.	S. 0800
B. Prior	L. Stoney Middleton	T. Monyash
20/21 July:	York Rally.	
28th July:	Rockingham Forest.	S. 0800
D. Loe	L. Alfresco	T. Hinckley

Will all members and visitors to the club please note:

Whilst all care is taken during club runs to ensure the

safety of members and visitors, no responsibility can be accepted by the club or runs leader for accidents caused by individual riders' erratic or irresponsible riding or behaviour.

Alfresco: Please bring cup, tea, milk, sugar, water and stove (if you possess one).

MERCIA DESPATCH NO. 126

Hon. Sec. Mr. P. Rose

Evening time trials Monday or Tuesday start 7.00 pm clubroom Beech Hotel. Check with secretary as above.

Forthcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Thurs. May 2nd: | Evening road race, Forresters Inn, Yoxall. Start 6.45 pm. |
| Thurs. 6th June: | B.D.C.A. 25 mile T.T. A25/11. Start 7.00 pm Etwall. Organiser: Wilf Lawson. |
| Thurs. 20th June: | Mercia 2 up T.T. 25 miles K16. Start 7.00 pm Alrewas. Organiser: Tony Karlow. |
| Wed. 26th June: | Mercia Tandem 25 K16. Start 7.30 pm Alrewas. Organiser: Tony Karlow. |
| Wed. 3rd July: | Mercia Open 25 mile T.T. A25/11. Start 6.30 pm Etwall. Organiser: Wilf Lawson. |
| Wed. 10th & 24th July: | Mercia Tandem 25's K16. Start 7.30 pm Etwall. Organiser: Tony Karlow. |

The Annual Reliability Trial turned out to be a real endurance test this year, only 15 out of 26 starters finishing the course. The 100km event started and finished at the Beech Hotel, Stretton. The course this year was via New Inn, Marchington, Uttoxeter, Chartley, Weston, Stafford, Penkridge, Rugeley, Yoxall and Barton.

The only rider to complete the distance in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours was Wilf Lawson. In 5 hours were David Lee, Chris Wells, Robin Gardner, John Cooper, Steve Herriman, Steve Locke and Tony Orme of the Mercia Cycling Club, also a one time member of the Mercia who I hadn't seen for over 12 years completed the distance in 5 hours, namely John Dunn, now riding with V.C. Thornbury down near Bristol. Two other riders were Steve Gloucester of Warwickshire R.C. and Dave Harrold of Glendale C.& A.C.

Finishing in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours were Jim Hopper on his trike and Terry Williams. I rode round with Dave Marriott, landlord of the Bull at Rosliston - I think Dave was glad for a lift back to Rosliston being somewhat cold and wet.

Three members took part in the first event of the year, the B.D.C.A. 25 at Etwall. Mark Sheffield finished an excellent 3rd in 1 hour 7 min. 18 secs. and Fiona Cottle was 1st lady in 1 hour 24 min. 21 secs. and Ivor James timed 1 hour 13 min. 6 secs.

The following Saturday there was good support for the Belper B.C. Hilly. Chris Wells was the club's highest placed rider in 11th position in 51 min. 11 secs. for the 20 miles.

Other times were: Mark Sheffield 53 - 31, Steve Herriman 53 - 52, Ivor James 55 - 50 and Fiona Cottle 1 - 6 - 20.

Two riders were placed in the results of the Midland Counties 25 mile T.T. on the A5 near Cannock. Peter Beddows was 6th in 1 - 4 - 45 and Mark Sheffield was 7th in 1 - 4 - 56. Ivor James timed 1 - 6 - 22 and Tony Marlow timed 1 - 13 - 52. No doubt Tony was still recovering from the previous days Tandem 25 where he and Pete Beddows finished 2nd in 56 - 37.

The same day as some of our members were racing at Cannock, Ken Goy, Steve Herriman, Chris Wells, Robin Gardner and myself had a morning club run out to Rosa's Cafe at Cannock. I had hoped to take the riders to the All Nations at Ironbridge but I had to return for lunch. Still, we did manage a visit to the Bull and Spectacles at Blithbury.

I believe only three members went to Stow-on-the-Wold Youth Hostel, namely Chris Wells, Steve Herriman and Ivor James. For once the weekend weather was quite good as I had an enjoyable run with the C.T.C. to Adam Bede's Cottage.

Four of us supported Wombourn C.T.C.'s Seven Counties Audax U.K. 200 km. starting and finishing in Stourbridge. We were lucky with the weather although it was a bit on the cold side. I took over Wilf Lawson, Ken Goy and Steve Herriman. We got round OK with no mishaps except Wilf broke some spokes. Wilf finished in about $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours, Ken and Steve under 9 hours and I managed about $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The route was the same as last year taking in some excellent scenery with plenty of snow on the hill tops. The route lay through Bewdley, Clows Top, Tenbury Wells, Brom Yard, Ledbury, Malvern Hills, Tewkesbury, Evesham, Honeybourne, Bidford, Redditch, Bromsgrove and back to Stourbridge.

The organiser, Phillip Ireland, had a secret control near Honeybourne, where we partook of some 'strong' refreshment. It certainly warmed us up for a few miles.

I must thank Pat Wortley for coming over to the clubroom to give us an excellent slide show of last year's holiday in France with Burton C.T.C. members. Pat also showed us some slides of his short time in Scotland taken in 1983 with the Rough Stuffers of Burton C.T.C.. For something completely different, Tony Robinson, a local driving instructor, came over to tell some tales of the people he had had the fortune or misfortune to try and teach to drive. Tony also gave us a short talk about driving in the Middle East where they still manage to run into other motorists on completely straight roads.

The last two club nights have been rounded off by hiring the B.D.C.A. rollers for some roller racing. Les Lowe certainly thought them worthwhile racing against Tony Marlow on both evenings over 10 laps and winning.

Some further racing results to date are: Tony Marlow and Peter Beddows finished 8th team in the Walsall R.C. 2 up 25 mile T.T. at Cannock timing 1-3-20. The following week they did even better by winning the Garen R.C. Tandem 25 in 55-53. Congratulations to Simon Key on winning 1st handicap in the Midland Counties 25 at Alrewas with an excellent time of 1hour 3min. 8secs..

Fiona Cottle had a dissappointing ride in the Newark Castle 10 mile T.T.. She was given her entry fee back because a rider crashed on the line and the timekeeper was involved in rescuing the rider from the middle of the road so about six riders had no finishing time.

I should like to end by welcoming Chris Simpson to the club. He tells me he is a keen squash player so he should be quite fit.

Peter Rose.

LOOK OUT

To add to cycling interest, why not look out for county treasures.

The details have been sent in by interested people, to be checked and recorded by the Derbyshire County Council. You may be able to suggest further treasures. It is also useful to report listed treasures which are at risk.

The tall stone signpost on the right hand side of the Hopton - Wirksworth road at the junction of the lane to Stainsborough Hall and Callow lane was broken by a

tractor. I reported it, a quick repair was made. The stone refers to the original route to Buxton before the Duke built the A6 Derwent Valley approach.

Here are a few examples which are listed for you to view:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Map Reference</u>	<u>Description</u>
Matlock	SK 281653	Pinfold Bent Lane, rectangular enclosure 3 walls intact and two gate posts.
Ashover	SK 344621	Icehouse, earthmound into bank, with passage entrance, probably for the use of Overton Hall.
Wirksworth	SK 282529	Victorian letter box, with hinged flap to close mouth.
Heath	SK 454655	Gildageforge Bridge. Buttressed stone bridge with skew arch, possibly on line of Peveril Way.
Bolsover	SK 471708	Castle Inn built in 1812 by Peter Fidler, a native of Bolsover, who was a pioneer surveyor for the Hudson Bay Co. He built the house for his mother. He named it Hudson Bay House.
Ashleyhay	SK 348466	Becksitch Lane, stone trough, on three pillars fed by a spring.
Ripley	SK 397512	Entrance to Bridle Lane, off Lowes Hill placed to prevent wheeled vehicles

<u>Area</u>	<u>Map Reference</u>	<u>Description</u>
		dodging the tolls on the turnpike road.
Shottle	SK 307468	Cast Iron milepost, London 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ Wirksworth 5 Derby 8.

Here are map references only for other listed treasures.
A certificate will be presented for the first D.A. rider
sending in correct identification to the D.A. secretary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Map Reference</u>	<u>Clue</u>
Heath	SK 454658	Used before wellies.
Clay Cross	SK 391631	Iron.
Duffield	SK 342437	Un'licenced on or off the premises.
Ripley	SK 400511	Cheaper than brick.
Windley	SK 312453	133 6 7.

George Brown
Conservation Officer.

Easter Ross.

Most tourist's tend to miss this quiet and unexpected corner of the highlands in preference to the west coast, but as one crosses the county boundary from Invernesshire to Ross-shire one might expect that with the Central Highlands behind you the further north you go would be higher peaks and moors, but at Muir of Ord one has the choice of ways, to the East is the Black Isle which despite the new road cutting across it still retains an air of peace and tranquility, while to the west beckoning you on is the road to the western highlands with it's lovely glens and majestic mountains, and to the north lies the district known as Easter Ross, a soft land of hedges, fields and woods, yet bordering on a fascinating coast backed by high hills and moors. At Alness bridge the scene of a short struggle during the Rebellion of 1715, the Earl of Seaforth leading a force of some 3000 men drove a loyal force of Munro's and Rosses with the McKays of Sutherland from the river over Struie Hill back to Bonar Bridge.

While at Alness it is worth while making a slight detour to see the Black Rock of Novar this is a rather awesome two mile long ravine cut out of the solid rock over the years by the Allt Grant (the Ugly Burn) which flows from Loch

Glass high on the north slopes of Ben Wyvis, at one point the gorge is only 17ft across and it's heavily wooded slopes plunge down more than a 100ft to the burn way below.

Further round Nigg Bay with it sandy beach lies Kilmuir with it's interesting round tower built in 1616 while nearby is probably one of the oldest castles of the Clan Mackenzies, their title was forfeited after the 1745 rising but restored to them in 1861.

At Fearn is the Premonstratensian Abbey founded in 1212 by Farquhar the first Earl of Ross, the abbey was originally built of mud at Edderton a few miles away but was brought to Fearn in 1238. In 1742 the chapel roof collapsed killing more than 40 people and the subsequent repairs proved equally disastrous to the appearance of the building. As we come into Edderton there is ample evidence that a community had existed here before there are quite a number of Sculptured stones and traces of pictish brochs while the name itself comes from the Gaelic "eader-dun" which means between forts. Tain which is our next stop is also of interest it's name is a corruption of the Norse word 'Thing' which means 'assemblyplace', in the town chambers is preserved a parchment tying it with Malcolm Cranmore King of Scotland in the 11th Cent..

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It also boasts of charters from the Stewart King James IV who paid over 20 visits here to the Burgh, from Tain our road took us westwards to the shores of the Dornoch Firth with good views across to Dornoch and it's cathedral only a few miles away as the crow flies but to us some 25mls round. Through Edderton we come to Ardgay where the main road sweeps round to Bonar Bridge and the county of Sutherland but a minor road and quieter, winds inland for the approach to the wild Strath Carron and the inspiring Carbisdale Castle. Nearby is the site of the battle marking the final defeat of the Marquis of Montrose, beaten in the Battle of Carbisdale in 1650. However we continue up Strath Carron to the Craigs, this becoming a land rover track we follow this to Alladale Lodge continuing to Deanach Lodge from here a reasonable track to us to the side of Loch Vaich reservoir and then down Strath Vaich to pick up the road at Black Bridge.

As I have said this is quiet an interesting area and well worth a visit, and is not all that strenuous, and can be enlarged on as one wishes.

Wheeler.

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