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MONTHLY MAGAZINE

D.A. OFFICERS FOR 1979 / 80

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Last date for articles in September issue 7th. August.

EDITORIAL.

In July editorial I mentioned the East Midlands Cycle Rally on June 6/7/8th, remarking that I had not received any notification of this. I read in the Derby Section report that five members attended this Rally on a camping weekend but the report did not describe the actual Rally, an event which could have made an interesting article for Awheel.

I must thank John Woodings for his useful suggestion at the end of Burton Section's monthly report and hope that this hint has the desired effect. As stated in July Awheel I am desperately in need of articles. When on a cycle tour there is always something interesting to write about; the characters you meet and your digs for the night, camping, hostelling or other accomodation, places visited and not forgetting any super feeding places. No matter where you have been touring there should always be something to let fellow members read about in your Awheel. How about a report on your visit to the York Rally.
Please get writing.

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D.A. DIARY.

- Sept. 14th. Standard Rides.
Organised by D.Lambert and J.Hopper.
- Sept. 28th. Hillclimb.
Organised by K.Hannah.
- Oct. 4th. D.A. Lecture "Memorable Days in Greece"
by Mr.C.Brown. Visiting Athens, Delphi,
Mycenae, The Mani Crete, Rhodes and
Carpathos.
At the Queens Hall, London Rd. Derby. 7.0pm.

D.A. DIARY. CONTINUED.

- Oct. 5th. Church Service.
South Wingfield Church. 2.30pm.
- Nov. 28th. D.A. Annual Dinner at Osmaston Park Hotel.
(Friday) Osmaston Park Road, Derby.
7.30pm for 8.0pm.
There will be a disco to follow the dinner
and prize presentation.
Price £4.50 for dinner and disco and 50p
disco only.
- Nov. 30th. D.A. Annual General Meeting at the Womens
Institute, Little Laton, at 2.0pm.

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B.C.T.C. Final based on Cromford Area. September 6/7th.

Will all those who have volunteered for marshall duty
please keep in contact with Section Secretaries to find
out details of what will be required.

Pres.

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DLRBY D.A. STANDARD RIDES. 14th September 1980.

50 Miles in 4 hours.
100 Miles in 8 hours.
Start. Markeaton Park Gates at 9.0am.
Map. Vale of Trent.

Take A52 to RADBOURNE LANE, sp. RADBOURNE, continue
past estate and take L. Fork sp. DALBURY and go to
crossroads and L. sp. ETWALL.

R. at main road and in village fork L. sp. WILLINGTON
and go on to crossroads. L. at crossroads. sp. WILLINGTON
and continue into village. At crossroads in village to
straight over onto B5132 and follow to SWARKSTONE. R. onto
A514, through STANTON-BY-BRIDGE and fork L. onto minor

STANDARD RIDES. continued.

road, sp. KINGS NEWTON and follow on to ISLEY WALTON. At A453 R. turn sp. TONGE and take next L. joining A447. Follow this road to B5324. Here R. sp. COFEORDON and go over B587 junction and take next L. sp. SINOPE. Follow lane across A512 to A50.

R. here and first L. sp. RAVENSTONE, (by parking sign). At crossroads in village turn R. sp HEATHER and follow to this village. In HEATHER R. onto main street and take next R. sp. MEASHAM and follow through to MLASHAM. At T Junction L., down hill to new traffic lights where R. turn, sp. Burton.

At A444 turn R. and then take second L. sp. LULLINGTON. Fork R. and take next L. sp LULLINGTON. At next junction L. sp. COTON, and go to this village. Here L. at Queens Head sp. Walton, and then R. into Church Street and on to WALTON.

Straight over at crossroads and on to BARTON. Through this village and at White Pub (Bell Inn) turn R. sp NEEDWOOD. Take next L. sp. NEWCHURCH and at crossroads L. sp HADLEY END. Follow this lane over A515 to five lanes junction. At junction take second R. sp ABBOTS BRIGLEY continue along lane taking sharp L. sp. MORREY. Lunch at first house on the R.

AFTERNOON COURSE.

Continue down lane and take first R. and on to T. junction.. Here R. sp. HAMSTALL RIDGARE and continue to this village and fork R. and past church. At next crossroads go straight over and follow lane forking R. to COLTON and continue to B5031. Turn R. and follow B5031 to second L. turn, sp NEWTON. On to NEWTON and fork L. sp. DROINGTON. At DROINGTON fork R. sp STOVE. and go through this village to A518. L. turn and take the next R. sp GAYTON turn R. off this lane into GAYTON, sp. MILLWICH and continue on to B5027. L. here and into MILLWICH village.

R. turn here sp. FARSHALL GREEN and continue to T Junction. R. here sp MORRILOW HEATH. Fork first L. and take two

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STANDARD RILES, continued.

L. forks and drop down to level crossing at UPPER LEIGH. Up hill from level crossing fork L twice sp. TEAN to A50. L. here to UPPER TEAN and R. onto B522 sp. CHEADLE. Follow to CHEADLE, and here R. turn onto B5417 and follow to OAKMOOR.

Take first R. over river, sp. PARLEY and follow to T. junction. R. here and go over crossroads to ELLASTONE. Take next R. sp. DENSTONE, and go down to B5032 at ELLASTONE. At B road R. and first L. sp. NOREBURY, over river and R. turn to ROSTON. Follow lane and signs for THURVASTON and onto Long Lane. Follow Long Lane over A515, through GREAT CUELEY and AIKINGTON to finish at the outskirts of DERBY.

sp. : SIGNPOST.
L : LEFT.
R : RIGHT.

Duplicate route sheets will be given to entrants who do not have an "Awheel" copy.

An entry fee of 50p per event will be charged to cover badges.

Badges can only be issued to C.T.C. members but certificates can be arranged for non members.

Dave Lambert.

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DERBY D.A. ANNUAL HILLCLIMB .

Commencing 2pm - 28th September 1980.

Venue - Kiber Hill near Matlock, Derbyshire.

Start - Gr. Reference SK 301588 at junction near Starcholmes.

Finish - Gr. Reference SK. 305587

A great event promised for all - prove it for yourself !. Certificates for those who qualify for them. All cyclists including non-members welcome to join in,

Further details from Keith Hannah, Derby 760447 or Great Longstone 505 (work). Keith Hannah.

3rd ANNUAL LINCOLN CYCLISTS WEEKEND.

This event is to be held at Lincoln Youth Hostel on Saturday September 20th and Sunday September 21st. An organised cycling programme is once again planned for all to enjoy, including a Saturday evening slide-show with Sunday runs being taken.

All bookings to the Warden - Lincoln Y.H.
Details from Laurie Nunn, 101 Stonecliff Park, Melton, Lincoln.

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DERBY D.A. TREASURE HUNT RESULTS.

M. Atkinson	5	A. LOCK	18
S. Hanson	5	P. Foster	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
D. Eyre	12	D. Riley	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
S. Rossey	12	D. Gilbert	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
C. Burnett	12	D. Lambert	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
A. Arkesden	16	J. Lambert	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
A. Smith	17	T. Williams	29
P. Butler	18	G. Emms	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
D. Longson	18	J. Annison	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
D. Roberts	18	J. Woodings	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
M. Ayling	18		

All marks out of a possible 40.

The event was well attended despite the wet weather, with 22 participants although Fred Dolman had to withdraw due to mechanical trouble.

As you can see it was a very close thing for the top 4 places with new members coming 2nd and 3rd, but the winner in the end was John Woodings on his flying crate by a mere 1 point.

P. Hargreaves.

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NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS.

ALFRETON.

No report received.

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NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS.

BURTON.

I believe that all the Burton Section clubruns were well supported during my absence on my annual continental tour with Bernie Prior.

This was our first visit to Corsica and we were very impressed with the island for it is literally a mountain in the sea. A snow capped mountain at that. Outside the two large towns of Ajaccio and Bastia everywhere was very peaceful and apart from some recent hotel development on the coast for the idle tourists, everywhere else was very rural and rather neglected. The roads were fairly well surfaced although they were poor in parts, the main roads, well they country lanes compared to our A38 between Burton and Derby.

We returned home on the Saturday and I had the choice of mowing the lawns or cycling on the Sunday, naturally I chose cycling and that is how I happened to enter and win the District Association's Treasure Hunt. I think the organisers were pleased with the entry on what was a rather showery day and what proved a rather undulating course.

Returning to our normal section's fixtures on the following Sunday, Bernie led a clubrun to Audlem locks on the Shropshire Union Canal. This was a very pleasant run into rural Staffordshire and Shropshire but was marred by lack of cafes, none at all open in Stafford for elevenses, fortunately we carried stoves for brewing up at lunchtime, and then the cafe at Darlaston was found to be closed at tea-time so the stoves were used again.

I led the first clubrun in July to the Goyt Valley. Several members were camping in the valley for the weekend but we failed to make contact until tea at Wetton-mill.

We had a picnic lunch at Goyt Bridge, afterwards taking the Kettlethulme road for about a mile and then followed a path by the ruined Errwood Hall to the Cat and Fiddle Inn. We passed a small circular stone chapel with a conical stone roof, its interior had no seats but a small altar.

and glazed tile scene from the bible. I have never seen anything of this before depicted in Derbyshire books, can anyone supply any information, please. Even Gordon Bird our gleaner of useful information from our local library could not give any details.

Gordon always has ideas for clubruns, must be because his office is adjacent to our splendid new library

Gordon tells me he had an excellent holiday, walking and cycling in Scotland with quite good weather.

I hear now that Dave and Janet Lambert, Rob Ivens and Dave Gilbert are also off to Scotland shortly after the York Rally, they are planning a camping tour so I presume are praying for good weather.

As I write this, it appears that there will be a good turnout for the Annual York Rally. There also appears to be a lot of support for the Lake Vyrnwy Bank Holiday tour in August. Several members are also attending the Birthday Rides which this year are based on Malrose. If someone from each of these tours writes an article for Awheel we should have some interesting reading during the winter months, and a happy editor!.

I will be glad when the dark nights return, I will then have more time to write and read.

John.

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DERBY.

On June 1st. six Derby Section members took part in the B.C.T.C. ride and fared well in the results.

On June 7/8th five members participated in the Annual East Midlands Cycle Rally. Jim led four members down to Leicestershire. For most of them it was their first outing with the club and it gave them a good opportunity to see what happens on one of our numerous camping weekends.

On June 14th. Alan led five members to Dinningdale Youth Hostel for the weekend. Leaving Derby in the early

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afternoon they had rain all the way to the hostel. At 6.0pm Joan and myself made our way to Dimmingsdale to join the other members and on telling them that we had had hardly any rain they were not very pleased.

On Sunday we made an early start from the hostel, Pete having ridden up from Derby to join us. We then made our way to the Weaver Hills and admired the views. Our homeward journey via Sutton-on-the-Hill was unfortunately marred by my series of punctures.

12 Derby members took part in the Treasure Hunt organised by D.Clark on June 22nd.

On June 29th. Pete led five members to Shackerstone Station to visit the collection of steam engines.

Tony.

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SEE HOW THEY RUN.

THESE NOTES APPLY TO ALL SECTIONS, ALFRETTON, BURTON AND DERBY.

Will all members and visitors to the club please note:- While 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 behavior.

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S.Start. L.Lunch. T.Tea.

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ALFRETTON SECTION.

Hon. Sec. J.Hughes.

Start. Hurt Arms Hotel, Ambergate. 9.0am.

Aug. 3rd. Manifold Valley. Louise.
 L. Wettormill.

Aug. 10th. Dovedale. John (Illk.)

ALFRETON SECTION.

Aug. 17th. Weaver Hills. Grayham.
L. Ellastone
Aug. 23/24/25th. Y.H.A. Edale /Castleton John.
Aug. 31st. Monks Dale. Alex.
L. Litton Mill.
Sept. 7th. B.C.T.C. Final.
Sept. 14th. Standard Rides.

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BURTON SECTION.

Hon Sec. J. Woodings
Start. Abbey Arcade, High Street,
Burton-on-Trent.
s. start time.
Aug. 3rd. Giants Hole. s. 8.0am.
L. Castleton. T. Over Haddon.
F. Dolman.
Aug. 10th. Longdon-upon-Tern. s. 8.0am.
L. Alfresco. T. Bradley
J. Woodings.
Aug. 17th. Little Moreton Hall. s. 8.0am.
L. Alfresco. T. Rudyard.
D. Lambert.
Aug. 24th. August Bank Holiday.
Camp at Lake Vyrnwy.
Aug. 31st. Shillito Cross. (East Moor). s. 8.0am.
L. Grindleford. T. Over Haddon.
C. Bird.
Sept. 7th. B.C.T.C. Final & Informal.
L. Alfresco.
Sept. 14th. Standard Rides. See Awhcel for details.

The next section committee meeting will be held on 30th August 1980, at 31 Eton Rd. starting at 7.30pm.

Where Alfresco appears on the runs list for a lunch or tea stop will members please bring the following :-

A primus stove, if you have one, a cup or mug, milk, and sugar.

For all D.A. events please see the Awheel for details.

For details of Bank Holiday tours please see the general secretary or the Y.H.A. secretary.

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DERBY SECTION.

Hon. Sec. Mrs. J. Smith,

Runs Sec. Miss Sue Smith.

Acting Runs Sec. Tony Harper,

Clubroom. St. John's Social Centre, Mill St. Derby.
Wednesdays at 8.0pm - 10.0pm.

Start. All runs leave the Wardwick, Derby at
9.0am. prompt on Sundays unless otherwise
stated. Runs marked X contact Sue for
details on Derby 512108.

Aug. 2/3rd. Dinningsdale Y.H. X.

Aug. 10th. Long Ride. X

Aug. 17th. Lathkill Dale.

Aug. 23rd-30th Section Holiday - Scotland.

Aug. 31st. Ashby Castⁿc.

Sept. 6th. B.C.T.C. Final.

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MERCIA DESPATCH No.94.

Hon. Sec. Mrs. Ann Staley.

Clubnight. Tuesday evening at 7.0pm.
Beech Hotel, Stretton.

Clubruns. Derby Turn Inn. Sundays 9.0am.

Forthcoming Events.

Evening Time Trials every Tuesday evening at 7.0pm.
except 12th August when on a Monday evening.

B.D.C.A. 50 mile TT on A50/13, start Clay Mills 8.0am.
Organiser Tony Marlow, September 7th. Sunday.

Open 25 TT on K16, Start Fradley 2.0pm.
Organiser Ken Goy. September 20th. Saturday.

The club's 2 up Time Trial was organised this year by Richard House. As usual there were some very fast times recorded. Unfortunately it was a thundery evening which washed a lot of grit on the road causing many punctures. Our only full club team was John Cooper and Dermot Stuart who got under the hour, in 59 mins-48secs. Tony Marlow and John Beavan rode as a composite team to record 59min-27secs. Kevin Fowley and Liz. Price recorded 1hr-6mins-42secs.

The winners were P.Wells and P.Bennett from the Edgeware R.C. in 53mins-39secs.

The following Sunday the club helped again with the marshalling and feeding of the B.D.C.A. 100. Many thanks Dorothy and Morris Wigley for providing the refreshments, Brian Langham and Vic Sewell for helping marshal and all the others too numerous to mention. We had five riders enter but only two finished. Ted Forbes, Ken Goy, John Cooper all retired. I know Ted was really in trouble he's not the sort of rider to retire unless it is something serious. Congratulations to Wilf Lawson on recording a personal best in 4hrs-25mins-36secs. Tony Marlow recorded 4hrs-44mins-08secs but he wasn't too pleased with the time, like myself he has been suffering from a chest complaint. Second claim member Les Lowe timed

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4hrs-58mins-35secs. The winner was Mark Vowells from the San Fairy Ann C.C. from Kent in 4hrs-5min-16secs.

The previous day some of us lesser riders not wanting to ride 100 miles, like myself, rode in the Matlock C.C. event over 25 miles at Etwall. Dermot Stuart was our fastest rider in 1hr-4mins-19secs, Dave Bousfield timed 1hr-7mins-44secs, and I did 1hr-14mins-41secs. The winner was S. Burney in 58mins-06secs.

The following Wednesday evening, four of us entered the B.D.C.A. 25 mile TT at Loughborough, it was a wet evening but times were fairly reasonable. Wilf Lawson timed 1hr-2mins-12secs, Ted Forbes 1hr-21mins-05secs and yours truly 1hr-15mins-14secs, Dave Bousfield was unfortunately a non-starter due to work commitments. The winner was Geoff Platt from Coalville Wheelers in 58mins-15secs.

The week after this I spent with my family on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales, a poor week weather wise, likewise for the riders in the Isle of Man.

Ken Goy travelled over with Dave Grimes, Colin Farmer and Owen Jowett from the ACE and Kevin Powley from Derwent Velo. I have only reports on the two major time trials, the 1 lap of the TT Circuit 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles and the 25 mile TT.

Kevin finished 8th in the mountain event, won by that unbeatable rider Dave Lloyd who just failed to break course record, Ken finished about 2/3rd down the field. The 25 mile event saw Kevin again finish 8th in 1hr-1min-18secs and Ken in the 1st 30 riders in 1hr-5mins. From what I remember when I went over there it is a fairly hilly 25 mile TT.

At fairly short notice I was asked to help time the Brereton Wheelers 25 mile event at Stone. Wilf Lawson was again consistent with a time of 1hr-2min-14secs, Dave Bousfield timed 1hr-7min-17secs, Les Lowe 1hr-0min-25secs and Kevin Powley who again finished 8th in 58mins-42secs a personal best. The winner was Steve Hudson from Coventry R.C. in 56mins-08secs.

I have received reports of some excellent times being

done by two of our younger riders in club 25's on the A38. Mark Sheffield has recorded 1hr-6mins and 1hr-4mins. Steve Merriman has recorded 1hr-13mins and 1hr-10mins. Keep it up lads.

Wilf Lawson just failed to get under the hour in one of the events.

Ted Forbes informed me the other evening in a local hostelry which he frequents, that he won age standard prize in the Brereton wheelers 10 mile event, well done Ted.

The numbers at the evening 10 mile events have fallen off a bit just lately due to poor weather of late but the trio who usually go out on C.T.C. runs namely Dave Gilbert, Dave Lambert and Chris Wells are regulars plus Elizabeth Price and Dave Peters. Competition for the senior award is fairly close between Wilf Lawson and John Cooper.

Young Andrew Walton continues to improve in club time trials, he is now feeling the benefit of some track racing with the Concord R.C.C. at Salford Park.

To close the racing scene congratulations to Wilf Lawson in recording 2hrs-7mins in the National 50, again a personal best.

Members may like to know we are selling off the sponsored jerseys at £5 each. No doubt you know that Trevor Jarvis has had to close down Burton Engineering. I hope Trevor continues to do well with his cycle business to make up for it.

When these notes appear the roller racing at Burton regatta should have taken place. I hope it goes off well.

Peter Rose.

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WINGED WHEELS. Continued from July Wheel.

In 1883 the name was changed to the Cyclists Touring Club and the fortunes and membership have always fluctuated. In 1896 membership was 60,499 the highest ever. In 1918 membership fell to 8,546 the lowest since 1883. Diamond Jubilee year of 1938 membership was 37,000 and in 1941 it had fallen to 23,703. Another peak was 1950 when membership stood at 53,574 now it stands at about 28,000. Early offices were in Newcastle on Tyne, Bradford and Fleet Street in London, then followed 3 Craven Hill and now Godalming.

In 1898 Ligue Internationale Des Associations Touristes (LIAT) was formed in Luxembourg. In 1894 the Northumberland and Durham District Association was formed, this was almost defunct during the 1914-18 war. In 1899 no less than 14 District Associations were in being and six more were formed before 1918. Derby District Association was formed in 1924 and Burton Section was reformed in 1941. I wonder what year Derby and Alfreton sections were formed?

Monochrome slide lectures were held in Liverpool in 1897 by famous cycling personalities. In 1902 commuted membership was introduced in periods of 5 and 10 years. In 1910 King George V became patron of the Cyclists Touring Club and in 1913 the Prince Of Wales, later King Edward VIII and later still Duke of Windsor became a life member.

In 1918 the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT) was formed. The Touring Club de France invited the C.T.C. and others to form it. In 1935 the Cycle Touring Commission of the A.I.T. was formed by the C.T.C. and Ligue Velocipedique Belge.

In 1937 the cycling clubs of France, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy combined to form Confederation Internationale de Cyclotourisme, the C.T.C. joined by invitation.

In 1947 the first A.I.T. Rally was organised by Ligue Velocipedique Belge in the Ardennes district of Belgium. The second A.I.T. Rally was held at York in conjunction with the Rally in 1948.

In 1921 the Cyclists War Memorial was unveiled at Meriden by Lord Birkenhead on 21st May, 10,000 cyclists attended. After the first world war the club's fortunes revived, mainly by returning troops seeking new adventures. Pass storming became popular especially in Wales, Scotland and the Lake District, also abroad. Maps were studied for old miners paths and Drove Roads. (nothing new is there !.)

In 1928 the first foreign tour was led by Nevill Whall the assistant Secretary, to France. When restrictions on travel were lifted after the second world war in 1949, R. Shaw the Secretary lead a Swedish tour of 20 cyclists, no less than 300 cyclists applied to join it !.

In 1924 at the Olympia cycle show the first C.T.C. diary was on sale. 1925 free third party insurance was introduced. 1934 the Defence Fund was established. In 1938 it was proposed to introduce cycle training in schools. In recent times 1952 the first B.C.T.C. competition was held with the final in Shrewsbury, in 1976 it became a two day final.

In 1950, on December 28th the Peak District National Park was formed, the first in Britain. January 1951 Lake District National Park was formed. February 1951 North Wales National Park formed.

In 1955 on May 8th the first cyclist special rail trip was held . On September 23rd 1956, 350 London cyclists came to Burton on a Cyclists Special at a fare of £1. Nine itineraries were available, and I led one of them into the Churnet Valley area. A later Cyclists Special was from Coventry to Matlock, and again I led a party to Monsal Head with tea at Over Haddon.

In 1930 the Youth Hostels Association was formed in Britain , bed night fees were only 1 shilling !.

In 1958 no less than 3,000 tickets were supplied by the C.T.C. for members going on foreign tours. They did not sell me one, my first foreign tour was 1959.

1966 October 1st Cotterell House was opened at Godalming.

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1970 The first Birthday Rides were held, based at Godalming.

Throughout the book, persons and administrators have sought to impose restrictions on the cyclist and this club of ours has always fought hard for our rights on the public highway. This is one good reason to pay our subscriptions promptly.

Finally I received today the February copy of Cycle Touring and it reveals that membership is at 35,000 and I see that "Winged Wheels" is still available at only £2.30p, excellent value !.

John.

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I noticed in Cycletouring for December 1979 / January 1980 , page 31, a letter headed "Is it in YOUR public library?". In this letter the writer suggests - "that C.T.C. Sections and individuals should help spread Knowledge of the Club by presenting a copy of "Winged Wheel" to the local municipal library. The Halifax Section have done this. Surely every C.T.C. section can afford to spend £2.30 in advertising our Club and Pastime in this way".

How about it Derby D.A. One for Derby Public Library and one for Burton !.

With reference to a query in the above article - Alfreton Section was formed in 1929.

Ed.

=====

TO BERIDEN.

It was the generous and thoughtful offer of a lift which took me in that direction. Since my one and only visit to the service in the mid 1920's. So with Freddie on the roof-rack plus a sidecar and a very young cyclist for company we soon arrived at the scene of action.

A very fine morning it was and a good number of cyclists to attend, though there was plenty of room for another few hundreds. I remember my previous trip to Beriden

I got nowhere near the service, the green was packed solid.

So the service over we retired to the village hall for refreshment. The sun shone down on a lawn full of cyclists who were busy packing the calories. That sight took me back a few years to when the catering for a large club would be met by a very large tea-urn.

An hour or so later I started my return cycle ride to Burton by Maxstoke, Shustoke Green where I came across a small party of cyclists, one was suffering from the wind, (lack of same in inner tube). They caught me up later and I rode with Fred, the old man of the crew. Across by Bodymoor Heath and to Fazeley, a district I do not often patronise. Fred and his crew were talking of stopping in Tamworth then by Wiggington and the lanes to Lullington. So I let them carry on and took the main road to Elford and back by Catton Park.

The ride back was by unfamiliar roads, quite enjoyable except for the Maxstoke area where I remember evening rides when years ago I worked in the Coventry area. I do not know if I am correct in saying that the road through Meriden Village was once the main Birmingham - Coventry route. I bet the residents were pleased when the village was by-passed.

However a very pleasant day-out and a visit to Meriden after 50 odd years. In this case thanks to petrol power.

Acetylen Gas.

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CHESTERFIELD WAY.

A cloudy Sunday morning, so out by Dunstall, over the splash to Yoxall where I met my first acquaintance. This gent of 85 years who I listened to for 20 minutes whilst sampling a pipe of the weed. It seems he was brought up on farming, went to school at Oaks-in-Charnwood, worked in that area also Osgarthorpe and one or two other places.

By the time I left him I had learned how to "layer a hedge",

very interesting gent and he tells me he's still doing a bit of hedge laying etc. in the Yoxall area where he now lives. He told me that in his younger days you had to be an allround man to work on a farm. Today you are a cowman, a tractor man, a pigman or whatever. Anyway I look upon a farm worker as a tradesman and he is wellworth his "salt" or his "corn".

Forward to Kings Bromley - Shaw Lane where on the rail bridge, Trent valley Line, much Sunday overtime was being earned. I stopped to learn about "plate laying". These gents were busy packing up the rails with what looked like orange coloured plastic wedges, then driving the locking pin tight into the chair with a sledge hammer, new to me this, but not the big kettle on the calor gas ring getting ready for the brew-up.

By Hanch Hall where a gent was busy smartening up the turf at the entrance ready for the visitors. So to Longdon Green where the babbling brook runs by the side of the road. The seat on the green which I noted was vandalised last time has now been repaired - so I inspected and passed it for further use. To Stonywell by those narrow lanes and then the tea place hove in sight - Chorley -. Leaving in direction of Bondy Hay by the Water Board Station and across to Burntwood, district of many roads, I got it right this time. Left at Town Centre to Edial where Dr. Johnson ran a boys school, so says a tablet on the wall.

Crossing the Walsall road at Pipehill to Wall village to visit the church which unfortunately was locked. A small spire with a wooden box being up one side had weights to the clock hanging inside. A single bell hangs onto the outside of the church spire. Down by the Trooper Inn and under the A5 to the village of Chesterfield, on to Shenstone, cross by the mills and onto the A5. Decided to suffer a mile or two of A5 and left at Weeford crossroads to Whittington Barracks - to the village of Whittington - to Fisherwick.

Acetylene Gas.

to be concluded.

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