

Worcester and Malvern CTC Annual Report 2018

The Welcome description of this member group on our website is a perfect summary of what we are about:

“We are a friendly bunch and don't leave anyone behind! All cyclists are welcome on our rides. We try to use the quieter lanes rather than the busier roads. Remember it's not how quick you ride, it's all about enjoying it”.

We are a traditional touring club and our activities across the year reflect that. The type of rides and destinations then are strikingly similar to ones we've been doing for decades and we still visit the same pubs on Wednesday rides!

We are lucky to be surrounded by beautiful and varied countryside, places to visit, friendly cafes and pubs, and quieter lanes – tempered as ever by potholes and inconsiderate motorists.

Sad news this year that one of our most avid members passed away, Keith Edwards. Keith was an active ride leader, committee member and an all round great friend. Joan and his family will sorely miss him and we will miss that cheeky smile. We still expect to see him walk in when we do joint rides. Joan organised and invited us to a beautiful ceremony to celebrate his life under the shadow of the Malvern Hills baked in sunshine.

We have a new sub section – Lumpy stuff. Leigh successfully set up and took us on a brilliant bridleway adventure to Feckenham, approx. 75% off road, blooming fun and tiring too. No-one about, no angry drivers, beautiful countryside. The start of something new, exciting and a chance to increase our membership, Thanks Leigh.

We have had rides on most Saturdays with some Sundays thrown into boot, with length varying typically from 30 to 60 miles (no 100-milers this year). Also sociable rides on alternate Tuesdays, meeting at a cafe and riding to lunch. Wednesday evening rides have comprised both joint and separate Malvern and Worcester destinations (it's said that Malvern won't cross the Severn and Worcester will only go where the lights of the Wychbold transmitter can be seen). There have also been several popular weekends away. Numbers on rides have been fairly consistent – around 10 on Saturdays, 12 on Wednesdays and 15+ on Tuesdays – but we remain dependent on ride leaders coming forward and are grateful to our Co-ordinators for encouraging and cajoling members (Rob Taylor – Saturdays; Gez Hoare/Graham Nevett - Wednesdays; Edward Shirley – Tuesdays, Lumpy Stuff – Leigh Robinson). Edward is now stepping down, with our grateful thanks for his work these last 3 years. The Tuesday Co-ordinator is to be taken over soon (following voting in).

Some other snippets from the year:

- Gez and James raised over £1100 for Cancer Research in September.
- The club jerseys have now seen 3 runs of orders. Nearly 100 out there now.
- Some of the Sunday rides have joined with Kidderminster CTC.
- The new Lumpy Stuff sub section has been formed successfully.
- An 'owl' tried to cause a mass crash one Wednesday evening.
- Gez has joined Worcester St Johns and has gained interest from their members too.

We enjoy regular social activities arranged by Steve Gardiner, which are popular and well-attended. These have included faggots & peas; Summer Vodka powered Barbecue (hottest ever on record); annual Skittles match against Kidderminster CTC (Thrashed them); three pubs and a curry; and a Christmas Do (on a Strictly Come Dancing theme; special mention of Richard Davies whose outfit was so realistic that one regular at the Fox asked for a date!). During the winter months there have been slide shows arranged by Graham Nevett on alternate Friday evenings. I am always impressed by the high quality of photographs and interesting locations presented in these shows.

Lyndon Bracewell continues to be active on the campaigning front, keeping a watchful eye on the County Council and especially the planned cycle bridge over the upgraded link road. Lyndon also publishes the PushBike! website, which lists details of all cycling activities in Worcestershire.

Our activities are all co-ordinated and published only on our excellent website, using Google Calendar and managed by Gez Hoare. We also have a Facebook site, great for publishing photographs from rides as well as some gentle banter. The ride write-ups are still popular, forming an adjunct to any photographs and Strava recordings of popular routes. Facebook is now our club scrapbook.

The Eddie Bray memorial ride continued in September, when 2 groups went out for a 10 mile and 20 mile spin round the lanes, followed by a cyclists' tea provided by the lovely ladies of the Upton Hot Peppers WI. Thanks to graham for the long diversion. No-one went home hungry, many with cake in a goody bag. We hope to repeat this event in future.

Thanks are due to all the Committee, whose hard work and dedication has kept the pedals turning for the group. Also thanks to the ride leaders for coming forward willingly.

Finally and looking to the future, here are some challenges that we might care to ponder:

- Encouraging more ride leaders to offer rides, in good time for the plan.
- Not sure of member quantity as GDPR has caused delays in getting list out. I guess nearly 500.
- Our type of CTC rides perhaps tend to appeal to the more 'seasoned' cyclists, hence the reason for Leigh to set up the Lumpy Stuff section to generate members from other interests and areas.

Gerard Hoare
Secretary