

Worcester and Malvern CTC Annual Report 2016

The group are and will continue to be a friendly cycle touring section, who offer a traditional variety and range of rides – where the route, destination, cafe or pub stops are considered more important than speed or time. We are truly blessed with such fine countryside and lanes in our area – potholes aside - whichever direction in the three counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire we usually ride up, down and along. We have been relatively unaffected by the recent rebranding into Cycling UK; it hasn't changed our group name or the type of events we organise and ride.

We have offered rides of varying type and length every Saturday (and the occasional Sunday); alternate Tuesdays; and Wednesday evenings. Plus several weekends away – Wales and Yorkshire are particular favourites. We have enjoyed regular social evenings throughout the year, together with slide shows in the winter months. Our social events notably included faggots 'n' peas; summer (monsoon) BBQ; 3 pubs and a balti; skittles match vs. the Kidderminster section (we won!); and a Christmas do themed on 'Allo 'Allo.

We use our website to give information about us and planned events and rides. There is also a Facebook site where photos are often posted, together with some gentle banter.

Lyndon Bracewell is active on the campaign front and has led the setting up of the Pushbike! website to publicise all forms of cycling in Worcestershire.

A highlight of the year has been the design and provision of about 40 subsidised group jerseys. These have proved very popular and are seen on every ride, thus advertising our section and the CTC.

We are grateful to our committee for arranging all these activities. Particular mention must be made of David Baker and Ed Shirley for organising and cajoling ride leaders on Saturdays and Tuesdays; Graham Nevett for Wednesday evening rides and the slide shows; Steve Gardiner for the social events; and Chairman Gez Hoare for holding it all together.

A special mention to our oldest active Tuesday rider, Peter Greenway at 85. Also to Ali and Martin Staines, powering away on a new e-tandem, for their determination to overcome challenges and keep cycling.

We have 468 members allocated to our group (based on postcode) but less than 15% ever come out on our rides. Why do the remainder join and how should we encourage them to ride with us?

The ultimate success of our group must go to all the ride leaders, for their choice of interesting destinations (or themes) and routes. I've always thought that the advantage of a led ride is that you don't have to think much about where you're going – just enjoy the ride - and another person will often choose an interesting route or direction you wouldn't normally have considered.

Gez Hoare and David Baker are now standing down as Chairman and Ride Coordinator respectively; we thank them both for all their work and persuasion skills. It is really important for the group that new volunteers come forward for these vital roles.