



Down The Road

Issue 6

East Kent DA Newsletter

JULY 2003

FOUR DAYS IN THE ARDENNES

Les Osbourne and I decided to go to St. Hubert in Belgium for the Belles d'Europe Randonnee on Saturday 21st June. St. Hubert is deep in the Ardennes where the German Army made a last counter-attack at the end of WWI. We left Thursday lunchtime just making the Namur tourist office before closing time, booking hotel accommodation in La Roche as St. Hubert was limited. Friday was spent touring the area by car.

After an early breakfast on Saturday we signed up for the 106km paid our 2€ & set off following arrows that had been painted on the road marking the route. The area is heavily wooded with small towns in the bottom of deep valleys, some having castles, abbeys, rivers and bridges. The houses were built of stone with slate roofs.

Having finished the ride we settled down at outside tables set on wooden decking at the side of a cobbled church square. A stripped tent opposite was occupied by folk singers taking part in a local music festival. At 9pm however the AC/DC heavy metal tribute band started to play!

It was probably audible in La Roche 23k away. Our group had swelled to eleven by now so, having arranged the tables & chairs outside, we moved inside to eat and did the same again. There were further problems with a disputed bottle of corked wine and a mix up over who ordered what!

Les & I made our farewells at midnight, but our troubles weren't over. We couldn't find any roadsigns to La Roche. Eventually, having done a forest detour, we asked the way. The upside of all this was that by the time we reached our hotel, the travelling fair that had been set up the previous night & was as loud as the AC/DC band earlier, had closed down for the night so the timing was perfect.

After a late breakfast on Sunday we drove back to Calais via Chimay, famous for its 9° proof beer made by the Trapist monks.

There was one final drama, as we docked the stairs to the car deck were too narrow for everyone to descend on time, so we had a queue waiting to disembark behind us when we reached the car.

Colin Weaver

UPDATE

If you haven't already done so; please take the time to read Peter Horlocks article, on our web site, about tandem riding with the visually handicapped. Colin and I spent an afternoon with Peter and Sheila on our tandems around country lanes stopping at the Grove Ferry PH for refreshments. Sheila does a fair amount of walking with her guide dog & is quite fit. The pleasure she had on the back of the tandem was extraordinary. Peter is doing a wonderful service. However in the past week he has had a non-cycling accident & landed in hospital. We all wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

Our circular rides have been a great success with many more riders coming out. They have been slightly slower than the normal Sunday rides, but certainly on the three I rode, everyone expressed their enjoyment. I am organising a ride and treasure hunt on 20th July. It will be cycling to three villages where you can look for answers to clues in a given area. Approx. 25mls. Just a bit of fun, do it solo or in groups but bring a pen & an EK map if unsure of local roads. *Peta*

Runs List July 2003 – January 2004.

DATE	MEET	TIME	DESTINATION	NOTES	
06.07.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE HONEST MILLER, BROOK TR068446	
13.07.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	THE ZETLAND ARMS, KINGSDOWN TR381485	
20.07.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE WAY OUT INN, WESTMARSH TR276616	THIS WILL BE A TREASURE HUNT RIDE, SEE DOWN THE ROAD FOR MORE DETAILS.
27.07.03	TR127673	CAFÉ EAST END OF TANKERTON SLOPES	10.30	THE RED LION, BADDLESMERE TR010540	CIRCULAR RIDE LED BY JEAN BOMBER: FOR DETAILS RING 01227 277725
03.08.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE SHIP INN, DEAL TR	BRING YOUR OWN FOOD FOR BBQ TO START AT 12.30pm
10.08.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	BROADSTAIRS FOLK WEEK	2HR. RIDE ENDING AT THE FESTIVAL WITH LIVE MUSIC
17.08.03	TR377528	STAR BURGERS, CANTERBURY	9.45	THE NEW FLYING HORSE, WYE TR055467	1pm MEET WITH MARTIN GILL OF WEST KENT TO RECEIVE CTC BATON
24.08.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE DUCK, PETT BOTTOM TR161521	
31.08.03	TR377528	STAR BURGERS, CANTERBURY	9.45	THE WHITE LION, SELLING TR040568	1pm MEET WITH MARTIN GILL OF WEST KENT TO HAND OVER BATON AGAIN
07.09.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE KINGS ARMS, ELHAM TR178437	
14.09.03	TR377528	STAR BURGERS, CANTERBURY	9.45	THE FOUR HORSESHOES, GRAVENEY TR050620	
21.09.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	THE KING ETHELBERT, RECULVER TR225693	
28.09.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE WALNUT TREE, ALDINGTON TR040369	
05.10.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE BLACK RABBIT, ALDINGTON TR041369	
12.10.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	THE FOX, TEMPLE EWELL TR	
19.10.03	TR149438	LORD WHISKEY CENTRE, RHODES MINNIS	11.00	THE DUCK INN, PETT BOTTOM TR161521	CIRCULAR RIDE LED BY LORNA:
26.10.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE GATE INN, MARSHSIDE TR220657	
02.11.03	TR377528	STAR BURGERS, CANTERBURY	9.45	THE ROSE IN BLOOM, WHITSTABLE TR103656	
09.11.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	THE ROSE AND CROWN, STELLING MINNIS TR046558	
16.11.03		AGM		THE GRIFFINS HEAD, CHILLENDEEN TR271536	10.30 FOR 10.45 START, FOLLOWED BY HOT FOOD.
23.11.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE SUN, ST NICHOLAS AT WADE TR266667	
30.11.03	TR254585	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE WAY OUT INN, WESTMARSH TR276616	THIS WILL BE A TREASURE HUNT RIDE, SEE DOWN THE ROAD FOR MORE DETAILS.
07.12.03	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE HOPE INN, ST MARGARETS BAY TR359447	
14.12.03		CHRISTMAS LUNCH		THE GRIFFINS HEAD, CHILLENDEEN TR271536	This is the proposed venue. Phone Lorna as numbers/money will be needed in November
21.12.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	HALF MOON & SEVEN STARS, PRESTON TR250612	
28.12.03	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	THE WAY OUT INN, WESTMARSH TR276616	
04.01.04	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE HOP POCKET, BOSSINGHAM TR150490	
11.01.04	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE PLOUGH & HARROW, TILMANSTONE TR511305	
18.01.04	TR377528	STAR BURGERS, CANTERBURY	9.45	THE HIGH AND DRY, WALDERSHARE TR283492	
25.01.04	TR332582	YUMMIES, STRAND STREET, SANDWICH	9.45	THE GATE INN, MARSHSIDE TR220657	
01.02.04	TR254584	WINGHAM BIRD PARK	9.45	THE FITZWALTER ARMS, GOODNESTONE TR255547	
REMAINING BELLES D' EUROPE RIDES FOR 2003					
SUNDAY	20.07.03	CHIMAY		Check that this ride is still on	Please phone Lorna if you are intending to ride on any of the Belles d'Europe rides in case it is possible to arrange car - sharing
SUNDAY	07.09.03	ST. OMER			
SUNDAY	28.09.03	MOUSCRON			

The run will start promptly 15 minutes after meet time. Expect to ride until 12.30 or 1pm. & not go direct from start to destination. New and non regular riders are advised to phone the Runs Secretary to confirm no alteration to published list has been necessary