

WHEELER'S DIGEST

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Welcome...

Welcome to the December edition of the Wheeler's Digest.

Without your stories and news this would be a very brief newsletter so please send me anything cycling related, preferably with some photos as well, to webmaster@wellesbourne-wheelers.org.uk

Next issue at the end of January 2024

Steve Kirk - Editor

Club Update

Wellesbourne Wheelers have had a busy 2023 and regular readers of the monthly Digest will have been well informed of all the goings on thanks to our indomitable editor Steve Kirk.



For those who are not Digest followers, you are missing out, riders from all seven groups have been active every week except in adverse weather.

Being the end of the year it's a good occasion to recognise those who keep the wheels turning. Thanks to all the members who turn up regularly, sometimes in rubbish weather, to make the group rides.

Then the Ride Leaders who plan, lead and record the rides. Congratulations to those who have led their first ride in 2023. Next our Group Organisers who are key in doing what the title says in

supporting the ride leaders and providing leadership to all in their group.

All organisations need administration and our Secretary Olwen Kelly has done a great job in that role, in addition to being the Social Events organiser; the Club's party girl!

Thanks to Treasurer Richard Bacon, the full set of accounts to be presented at the AGM 23rd Jan 2024 show the Club in good financial health. We are indebted to Richard's tenacity in carrying out his role while recovering from major surgery.

As club kit secretary, Ashley Sherren has continued to provide riders' kit orders, the operation of which has its complexities. Chas Hilditch gave up many cycling days to update the WW's Website pictures.

Throughout the year many members, including committee member Alison Speechley, have stepped up to the plate to organise a variety of events both in the Club and in support of other local organisations which has been much appreciated.

With a membership of around 100 the Wheelers are well placed to ride confidently into 2024.

It only leaves me to say it has been a privilege to serve as Chair and thank you all for your encouragement throughout my term.

Philip Harris - Chair

Diary Dates

23 January - AGM

24 March - Mad March Hare sportive

27 April - Netherlands Club Trip

3-6 May - WOWW loW Club Trip

12 May - Majorca Club Trip

18 May - Bards Ride

26 May - Ride London

22 June - CFC Coast to Coast

7 July - Broughton Castle sportive

New Members

Alex Clayton

2024 Subscription Renewals

The subs for 2024 become due on 1 March and will be set at the AGM.

Please wait until **after** the AGM before making your renewal payment using the "Join Us" link on the website.

Richard Bacon - Treasurer

Xmas Lunch

On a pretty abysmal, cold, wet, definitely not a pleasant pedal day, it turned out that it was more-or-less ideal to find oneself indoors. Luckily enough 21 Wheelers found just that having booked to join in the frivolities of WW Christmas Lunch in the Kings Head, Wellesbourne.



Just to add a bit of nonsense there was a seating theme 'parts of a bicycle'. So picking a cassette or a wheel or a crankset etc out of the jar, that's where one sat. Musical chairs ensued later.

With a good cross section of Starters, Mains and Desserts there wasn't a hint of complaint from anyone. In fact, happy to say food and service was excellent. Further nonsense was included by a fun raffle.

I think safe to say everyone very much enjoyed our third social event this year.

Olwen Kelly - Secretary



Majorca Cycling Holiday

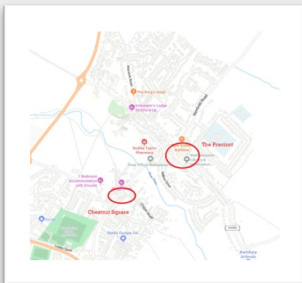
You'll have seen full details of the above in the last edition of the WD (still available on the home page of the club website if you missed it).

In terms of potential interest, we are now into double figures so, if you'd also like to consider coming with us, then please let me know (garygristwood54@outlook.com) by **Friday January 19th** as my intention is to try to get the trip booked by the end of this month.

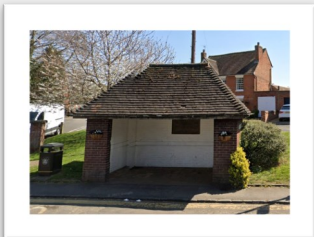
Gary Gristwood

New Year Trivia

Wellesbourne was originally two villages divided by the River Dene; Wellesbourne Mountford (south of the Dene) and Wellesbourne Hastings (north of the Dene).



In 1947 the two were merged into a single village. For that reason, there are 2 'centres' of the village - Chestnut Square (by the Stags Head) and The Precinct (shops). There used to be shops by Chestnut Square but these were replaced by houses at some point. So - that's where Mountford, Hastings, and Dene come from.



Also, the trade union movement was formed in Wellesbourne, headed by Joseph Arch. The first meeting was in the Stag's Head in 1872. There is a plaque in the bus stop opposite the pub.

Chas Hilditch

Xmas Brunch Ride

A fantastic turnout of almost a third of WWV turned out on 17 December for our annual Christmas ride.



The not so quicks met in the lay-by at 9.30 and the dastardlier dashing through the snow speedos met at 10. The wind was up but so were our spirits as it was great to be there. We did the planned route, thanks to Paul Meade who took Sunday Club while John Tuck took the lead with Sunday Casual. WB to P. Hersey, Butlers on into and through Kineton to sail to Gaydon. Up Plough Lane and turning into the headwind on Windmill Road to Lighthorne.

A mere 27 (should have been 28 but Chas H. had already cycled in from Kineton) fronted up in the Pavilion café in Lighthorne where indeed they were prepared for us (except sadly Penny was initially missing the bacon and Tony's beans weren't hot :). Otherwise they did very well, I mean (even if you were expected) how'd you like 27 breakfasts for the hunger games contingent asap. But I think fair to say a very convivial morning ensued.



Leaving the Pavilion, well, it all became rather splintered as some had to head off and some lingered having deep conversations. It was only 5 miles back which was ideal post a good full English.

Merry Christmas everyone and look forward to lots of breath-taking biking in 2024.



Olwen Kelly - Secretary

Mountford Update - New Café Stop?

On 14th December, Mountford had our penultimate ride of the year, and we were treated to a coffee stop at Peter Wain's home in Southam, where his wife (Annie) had done a wonderful spread of scones, blueberry muffins, and mince pies.

Chas Hilditch - Mountford co-GO

