

Charlbury TT & Aylesbury Loop August 2017

I'd never been on a GBH rideout before having been a little anxious about playing with the roughy toughy boys but I needn't have worried. Good road manners, realistic progress and a lot of fun were the order of the day. On reflection, what else would you expect; we are CWAM!

I'd anticipated Long Itch to be full so I was quite surprised by the comparatively small number (7) assembled. Nevertheless I felt their collective disapproving glare as I dismounted just as Roger was about to lead us out onto the A423; I thought my visor was more murky than usual only to realise that in my eagerness to be off, I'd forgotten to put my glasses on. They were still on the back seat - a good reason for using a cargo net to hook your glasses while you put your helmet on. Pathetic isn't it?

Sunday morning does make for quiet roads and it was a quick whiz to Chipping Norton for a brief stop then on to *On Yer Bike* at Westcott. Places - Banbury, Bloxham, the Tews, a comprehensive tour of Charlbury, Shipton under Wychwood (where there were some great views), the rear gates of Blenheim (which afford free access via a poorly advertised public footpath), Wootton, Islip, Stanton St John, Oakley, Long Crendon, Chearsley, and Waddesden but not necessarily in that order.

On Yer Bike is a bit of a nightmare - for accountants because of the capital tied up in so many bikes, for the



staff having to trundle so many machines out in the morning then in at night and for visitors who spend several million man hours a year queuing for the café.

Back on the road, it was cross country to Whitchurch, along the great A413 which unhappily had been partially rechipped and a straightforward route via Buckingham Brackley & Banbury back to the Long Itch by 1:30. Everyone had smiles, a super route, super company, super leader, super weather. Infact, it was all just - well - super.

The few that read August's newsletter may recall that I went on at some length about post test training. It occurs to me that a few more rideouts for members only, led by someone who actually knows what he/she is doing would provide a valuable, if informal, means of keeping skills sharp. Without denigrating the abilities of any associate, general rideouts are, by their nature, limited in overtaking opportunities and rates of progress. Maybe it's time CWAM initiated a few more members only trips, it might encourage some new faces on rideouts as well as sharpening some of us up.