

WELLS U3A CYCLE GROUP PROGRAMME 2022

The reports and photos from the Wells U3A Cycle Group rides in 2022 are collected together here and presented in date order. Rides were generally scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and details were circulated by email to the group members around a week beforehand. In the years before Covid-19 had struck, all active group members would be requested to organise at least one ride during the year. However, when "lockdown" restrictions were lifted during 2020 and 2021, we asked for volunteers to plan and lead the rides. This more informal approach was successful and so we continued it in 2022.

In the following reports, the leader of each ride is given after the date. Producing reports was entirely voluntary and therefore there may not be one for every ride. This is a public document, and group members are therefore referred to by their first names only (with the first few letters of their surnames to avoid ambiguity.)

🚲 13TH JANUARY 2022, GRAHAM

A cold but sunny start for the New Year

There was an excellent turn-out of cyclists for our first ride of 2022 despite the temperature struggling to rise above zero, and 12 of us set off from Lidl's under a clear blue sky. We split into two groups and made our way out of town along Burcott Lane, taking it cautiously because there was still frost and ice in the shadows. Also, some of us didn't want to add wind chill to our already suffering fingers and toes! We carried on past Fenny Castle and Bleadney to Panborough through the remnants of the overnight fog and picked up 2 more of the group on the way. The brief climb up Snake Lane to Bagley brought the (now) 14 of us above the mist and we turned down from Sand to Wedmore for a welcome coffee stop at Nanny Ida's, Wedmore (who were sadly closing down two days later).



13/01/22 – ASHTON WINDMILL, CHAPEL ALLERTON

Refreshed and warmed, we headed off in the sunshine up Lascot Hill to Ashton windmill. Turning left, we descended through Chapel Allerton down to the levels and on to the B3139 Blackford & Mark road. A left and right brought us through West Ham and along the lane across Tadham Moor. Not all of the few passing cars and trucks kindly pulled over to let us through, but we all arrived unscathed at Sweets for a snack lunch.

Some took advantage of the log burner to soak up some warmth before we all set off again for our respective homes, with about half of us retracing our tyre tracks back through Fenny Castle to Wells. Thanks to all who joined us on a splendid winters' ride in the glorious Somerset Levels; a total of around 29 miles.

Graham

🚲 10TH FEBRUARY 2022, STEVE C.

Wells – Strawberry Way – Dulcote – Dinder – Rocky Mountain, Masbury. Then Gurney Slade – Holcombe – Stoke St Michael – Waggon and Horses, Old Frome Road. Then Chelynch – East Cranmore – Shepton Mallet – Old Wells Road – Strawberry Way – Wells.

🚲 10TH MARCH 2022, GEOFF

We set off from Lidl's for Pilton with six riders. Ron H. Steve C. John S. Pete W. Linda T. and Geoff C. (ride leader). Waiting at Pilton's only café were Chris R. Pete M. Arthur S. and John W. Also Norman H., not riding, just walked across the road to join us for coffee.

Nine riders then set off towards Castle Cary, while Pete M. had to wait for a key to remove his bike lock! Our extended ride meant that Pete M. still arrived at our lunch stop 20 minutes before the peloton.

As we arrived in South Pennard, Linda peeled off back towards Wells for a prearranged appointment. On route to Ditchat we passed what seemed to be all Paul Nicholls' horses and riders walking towards Wraxall and their gallop. We crossed the A371 and on to Wyke Champflower. The road to Bruton was closed due to road works, so we turned right and on to Cole. The last real climb came just after Hadsphen before crossing the A371 again. It was an easy roll down to our lunch stop: the George Hotel.

We found the George hotel very welcoming, with good food at very reasonable prices. On leaving the George Hotel, Peter W. decided to return direct to Wells. The remaining eight riders rode away from Castle Cary along the B3153 through Alford turning right to Hornblotton Green road, crossing the A37 and on to West Pennard. At this point we we're down to six riders. Earlier, Arthur and John W. had peeled off back to Pilton. Then Pete M. also left for Glastonbury and after Page Lane, Chris turned right back towards North Wootton. The remaining four rode through Upper Coxley, Coxley Wick to Burcott. Ron and Steve turned for home and John S and I returned to Wells. I carried on to Lidl's checking the mileage at 36 miles with 2380 feet climbed. A dry, breezy, lumpy ride.

Thanks for your support on the day.

Geoff

"The weather was good, the route was good and the coffee and lunch stops very good. What more would you want from a day out with your fellow cyclists?"

Arthur

🚲 24TH MARCH 2022, CHRIS

Langport - Martock - Ilminster - Langport

Happily, fears that parking at Langport might be a problem proved groundless, and eight of us set off from Black Bridge car park a little after ten o'clock, bathed in glorious sunshine, en route for Martock and coffee at Yandles.

After Martock, the route became somewhat more challenging, with a steep ascent of Ham Hill (worth it for the view) and then up and down through a succession of pretty hamstone villages, like West Chinnock and Hinton St George, and sunken lanes, and finally down into the centre of Ilminster for an agreeable lunch at 'the Kitchen on Silver Street',

After lunch, a ride through the grounds of Dillington House, and one final hill at Stocklinch, together with a brief stop to repair a puncture. The remainder of the route was a straightforward run back to Muchelney and Langport in the late afternoon sun. Just under 32 miles in total.

Chris



24/03/22 – CLIMBING HAM HILL, STOKE SUB HAMDON



13/01/22 – AT THE TOP OF HAM HILL



13/01/22 – DILLINGTON HOUSE

🚲 14TH APRIL 2022, JOHN WIN.

Thirteen of our members turned up at Ashcott corner and eleven of us left for our coffee stop at J's bistro, whilst John and Graham returned to Wells. As the numbers were higher than anticipated I had to inform J's Bistro and Rich's Cider Farm so that they would be prepared.

We headed off through Shapwick and Phil joined us at the King William Pub on his latest acquisition; a very smart all terrain electric bike which he said he had bought for his wife!!

On arrival at J's Bistro, we were greeted with a very busy café. Another group of cyclists who had come on spec had beaten us to our reserved table. The staff were extremely busy; so much so that they were only able to serve cakes and coffees which wasn't a problem for us as they have a very good selection of the former. However it did mean that we had to wait longer so we left for the next section of our ride a little later than I had anticipated.

Carrying on through Cossington, Woolavington and into Puriton we took Batch Lane North and joined the A38 at West Huntspill. The main road is wide here and there is a 30 mph speed limit which makes riding on a main road bearable. We were soon in Highbridge and took the road/path down to the sea front at Burnham. We cycled along the sea front which was relatively quiet considering the Easter holidays were almost upon us.

At this stage I was hoping to recoup some time in order that we might get to our lunch stop close to the time I had told them. However as soon as we turned left on to the Berrow road the traffic was virtually at a standstill so it took us quite some time to get to the turnoff to Brent Knoll. We soldiered on through Brent Knoll and across the busy A38 towards Mark eventually coming out on Mark causeway and our lunch stop at Rich's restaurant 45 minutes late. This was no problem and the staff as always were very good.

After lunch and, for some, a taste of cider, we set off on the final leg of our journey across the levels through Burtle and back to Ashcott corner, losing all but four of us on the way as members turned off towards home.

All in all it was a very enjoyable ride with perfect weather and slightly longer than anticipated at 34 miles.

John Win.

🚲 28TH APRIL 2022, LINDA

On an overcast, breezy morning, 12 of us set off from Winscombe, along quiet country lanes through Loxton to Rooksbridge where the A38 was extremely quiet for a change. On to Watchfield and our coffee stop at Richs' Cider where most people were tempted by the lovely cakes on offer.



28/04/22 – COFFEE BREAK AT RICH'S CIDER FARM

Refreshed, we continued to Highbridge and joined the cycle path through Apex Park, passing the large lake there. We continued to Burnham on Sea and then along the Berrow Road which was not too busy but busy enough, then back on to quiet lanes to the lunch stop at Bleadon Café who looked after us very well.

Rested, we took on the last leg out of Bleadon to Webbington and back to our cars, a total of just under 31 miles. A few fit souls that had cycled to the start peeled off at Webbington to make their own way home, well done to them.

Thank you for your company.

Linda

🚲 12TH MAY 2022, ARTHUR

Initially the start of this run was always going to be a problem when I first conceived it: where to park. Fortunately a small car park appeared miraculously next to the run start at Cossington by the old railway bridge, part of National Cycle Network route 3.

With eight of us at the start we headed down the old railway track through Bawdrip and the lanes east of Bridgwater through Chedzoy and on to Bridgwater where things got more complicated trying to find the route that takes us to the crossing over the river Parrett and the canal. Stopping to assess the situation when I realised I had missed the small turn, we were met by Roger who had cycled furiously to catch us up. He knew where it was, so retracing a short way, we were back on track, literally by cycling across the new bridges that spanned the river and canal onto the canal tow path. We followed this for several miles avoiding the odd fisherman, walker and cyclist and listening to the reed warblers (birds to the uninitiated), to Maunsel Lock tea room for a late coffee and cake.

Refreshed and a quick phone call to the lunch stop at Burrowbridge to say what time to expect us, we were off again but this time on tarmac (after a short spell beside the canal). This took us through North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory and over the unmanned railway crossing to the King Alfred pub at Burrowbridge where we wine and dined and were eventually joined by two of our party who decided to extend the route by an extra 4 or 5 miles! A lovely pub passed by many on the Taunton road but never been inside; good food and drink and a warm welcome.

Eventually suitably fed and watered, it was time to get back into the saddle again, this time by following the river Parrett. Avoiding Westonzoyland the route took us back to Chedzoy and on to the smooth track that runs alongside the Kings Sedgemoor Drain, an artificial cut that helps to drain the Levels. This runs for about a mile and a half to finally link up with the start of the railway track (a short very steep tarmaced climb to reach it with one minor casualty) and back to the carpark.

A very pleasant ride of 33 miles, lovely countryside, excellent company, good food and only a hint of rain but a tad chilly at times, with the odd navigation mistake occasionally!

Thanks folks,

Arthur

🚲 26TH MAY 2022, JOHN WH.

John's run to Clevedon

The weather looked promising, at least as far as rain or the lack of it was concerned, but the wind got up as the day progressed. Six others including myself, met up with John Wh. at Winscombe sports ground, the difference being that the two of us and John Win. transported our bikes by car while the other hardy types, Ron S, Denise, Geoff and Paul, rode their bikes, so adding to the 31 miles we did; good for them.

Leaving the car park we rode north on the Strawberry Way cycle track to Yatton to the coffee stop café on the station platform (the walnut cake and coffee at £3.50 was not as it seemed, that was the cake only, shame). Thatchers Cider Plant has expanded since the last time we used the track and they have made good the surface of the path which they have donated and added gates to link up the two parts of the Strawberry Way.

Suitably refreshed, we left the cycle path and followed the road out from Yatton to Kingston Seymour beyond which it was twisty lanes to Clevedon for lunch at the Little Harp pub, 13 miles from Winscombe. Instead of eating inside we had a cosy chalet big enough to seat us all and away from the coastal breeze with a view of the muddy Bristol Channel and the South Wales coastline.



26/05/22 – THE BRISTOL CHANNEL AT CLEVEDON

Once again it was time to get the pedals rotating so, following the sea front where the railings have been beautifully decorated for the Queens Jubilee, we skirted around Cleveland with reasonably light traffic and a few steepish hills to regain the moorlands, specifically Kenn Moor, and back to Yatton. To have a bit of variety, the route back to Winscombe was through Iwood, Wrington with a little bit of the busy A38 to Churchill and Sandford for an abortive stop for tea at the station. But we made up for this back at Winscombe at the Pantry where we met up with a lady cyclist who was heading north to Scotland having left Lands End four days previously. This made Denise's day as she had cycled the end-to-end a few years previously.

It was back to the cars for three of us and back in the saddle for the others. Thanks John for a grand day out. Thanks to Paul for the pics.

Arthur



26/05/22 – CLEVEDON SEA FRONT WITH JUBILLE DECORATIONS



26/05/22 – CLEVEDON PIER

🚲 9TH JUNE 2022, PETE M.

A perfect day for cycling - not too cold, wet, windy or even hot. 8 of us set off from Wells Lidl's and proceeded without incident through North Wootton, and West Pennard arriving in time for a slightly confused coffee & cake at the Balsbury in Baltonsborough. Then it was back towards Glastonbury through the expanding caravan village. There was a slight delay waiting for traffic to thin before crossing the A39, before going on to Double Gate Farm for a leisurely lunch, unfortunately losing Barbara en route who headed straight home.

After lunch, the group split into 3 main parts heading off to Easton, Glastonbury and Wells respectively. No accidents or incidents!

Pete M.

🚲 23RD JUNE 2022, ROGER

Rogers Last Run

Five of us started out from Langport, Roger (leader), Linda, Phil, John Win. and Ron S. From the Car Park we travelled along the river to the bridge, we then took a left on a short section of the A378 before turning right at the junction to Stathe. We cycled to Stathe turning left up a small hill to cross the main Reading to Taunton line. We moved on to The Lemon Tree and had a pleasant stop for coffee.

On towards North Curry and Ham finally arriving at Creech St. Michael and the Taunton and Bridgwater Canal. We rode 4 miles along the tow path to the Maunsel Lock Tearooms where we were booked for dinner.

A pleasant dinner later, we cycled the two miles along the tow path until we could get off that and head across the main Bristol to Taunton line towards Fordgate. And so to Northmoor Green, Burrow Bridge and back to Langport. Unfortunately it meant retracing our steps on the part from Stathe to Langport.

The weather was good with occasional glimpses of the sun. Around 28 miles in total.

Roger

🚲 14TH JULY 2022, PAUL

Cheddar Gorge the (relatively) easy way



14/07/22 – CHEDDAR RESERVOIR

Six riders met up at Cheddar Reservoir, two utilising the free parking. After a half circuit of the reservoir, Paul (the leader) decided to demonstrate to the group the hazard of dismounting on a concrete downslope whilst wearing cycle cleats! Fortunately the only real damage was to his pride and a plastic cycle mirror.

We continued through Axbridge and then joined the Strawberry Line to traverse Shute Shelve tunnel (a first for some) and on as far as Sandford. Thence on the road via Churchill to the Source café at Langford veterinary college (another first for the group). Fortunately the trainee vets did not pick us up for any medical issues (clearly need more training).

We travelled on, minus Arthur who had decided discretion to be the better part of valour, with temperature and terrain both climbing sharply. After a circuit of Blagdon Lake via Butcombe, we descended to the Crown at West Harptree, and were glad of the shady outdoor seating and both liquid and solid refreshments.

After lunch we climbed steadily but surely skirting Chewton to gain the Mendip plateau. Here Ron forked off to return home via Priddy, leaving four of us to enjoy the descent down Cheddar Gorge. We felt our efforts (33 miles and 700 m ascent, and more for some) deserved rewarding with ice creams in one of Cheddar's many cafés before departing homeward.

Paul

🚲 28TH JULY 2022, RON H.

We had a great response to the ride consisting of 12 members meeting at Wedmore free car park, including new U3A member John M., who only saw the ride on the website that morning and decided to join us. As we made our way out of Wedmore at 10.15am we all stopped in the village briefly, and held up the traffic, so that one of us could return to their car to collect their jacket (I will mention no names). However, once we continued, we travelled through Sand, Heath House, Westham and River Bridge, then along Chilton Drove to Chilton Polden to our Coffee stop at J's Bistro, where we met up with Phil E who had travelled from home. The café is becoming increasingly popular with cyclists, as there were a large group there when we arrived and another group arrived before we left. As the weather was good we all sat outside to enjoy coffee and cakes, which was excellent.

Before we departed I made a quick call to our lunch stop to confirm numbers that would be attending. Steve C left us at that point to cycle back to Wedmore, and the rest of us continued to Cossington, Woolavington and Puriton, where we picked up Batch Road and crossed the M5 bridge and the River Huntspill to arrive at our lunch stop the Crossways Inn at West Huntspill. We were warned that it could take a little longer to be served due to the busy period and being short staffed. However, they did very well to serve 12 of us within 40 minutes, and we all ordered drinks from the bar when we arrived. I think all the food was very good and they did smaller portions of the normal size meals which were good value.

Our return journey took us to East Huntspill, Watchfield and then a loop through Vole to Mark. Then through Chapel Allerton, past the Windmill and Wedmore Golf Club and back to Wedmore. I recorded a total mileage of about 31 miles. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the ride, and hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Many thanks.

Ron H.

🚲 11TH AUGUST 2022, RON S.

Despite the forecast high temperatures, I was delighted that seven members decided to brave the conditions and join the ride, which I started an hour earlier than usual, resulting in a couple of riders unable to make the start time but would meet us en route. Obviously a very cautious man, John Wh. still thought it prudent to take his waterproofs on the ride, just in case! So, loaded up with water and sun screen five of us departed Ston Easton and headed towards The Holy Cow café at Chilcompton, via some back lanes and the B3139, where we stopped for coffee and cake, etc. Waiting for us were Graham and (a surprise addition to the group) his wife Barbara who'd arrived just 10 minutes earlier. Then we were seven!

Suitably refreshed, we made our way through the centre of Midsomer Norton (despite a 'Road Closed' situation) and up onto the Five Arches Greenway where we enjoyed some respite from the sun thanks to the overhanging trees. The route led us through Radstock and onto the NCN24 and Colliers Way for another long, shady ride ending up eventually at Mells and the Walled Garden for lunch, where John M. was waiting for us. Then we were eight!

Although it was very tempting to spend the afternoon in the shade and comfort of the Walled Garden we finally got back in the saddle. Pete W. announced he was leaving the ride and would find his own way back. Hopefully it wasn't due to the quality of the ride or something I'd said or possibly Arthur's saddle?!



11/08/22 – LUNCH IN MELLS, IN THE SHADE

We headed towards Vobster then turned north to pick up a different section of the NCN24 and Colliers Way which led us through Radstock, again, and on to the Norton-Radstock Greenway. Back on the road, and nearing the finish, we came to the last and longest hill climb where, unfortunately, John Wh. disappeared off the back of the group. He finally emerged walking his bike up the hill as his leg had cramped making it too painful to pedal. Graham and Barbara decided to leave the ride at that point as John (who was back on his bike) and I went to catch up with the remaining three riders who were further uphill (or so we thought). After failing to find them we learnt via a phone call that they were already back at the start point.

Thanks to everyone who supported the ride and rose to the 'heat challenge'. We started the ride in 22C and finished in 34C but were fortunate that much of the ride was shaded, although towards the end the heat was definitely feeling more intense!

Ron S.

🚲 25TH AUGUST 2022, DENISE

A Ride to Burnham on Sea

Thirteen of us set off from home, Wedmore or the Avalon Centre on Thursday's U3A ride to Burnham-on-Sea. There were two girls and eleven boys. I say boys and girls because there was a lot of laughing, banter and not sure of where we were going all the time....just like when we were kids, eh!

We cycled through Shapwick to Chilton Polden, stopping off for delicious coffee and cake at J's bistro. Full of cake, we were on our way but just as we were ready to turn right a farmer stopped us and advised not to go down there as it was full of potholes. I did notice that the last time I went down there but decided to take his advice, not wanting to fall out with my cycling buddies.

We then took another slightly different route to Aztec Park, cycling along the tributary path and promenade, taking in the view of the ever growing Hinkley Point power station. We arrived at the Bay View Café for lunch.....some of us still too full of cake to eat much.

After lunch we took off toward Brean intending to cut off toward Edithmead and Mark causeway. Roger lead that part of the ride and wanting to get in a bit more mileage routed us through Brent Knoll. After crossing a very busy A38, John took over taking a short cut to Mark. (Very enjoyable as I've always wondered where that road lead to).

I took up the lead again and we cycled past the back of the sawmill, through the village of Blackford and Stoughton past the Trotters and down Rughill to the road to Wedmore. We dropped a few cyclists at Wedmore car park and continued to Sweets café.....where more cake and coffee was consumed. All I can say is that I'm glad we are all mad cyclists and burn off the calories.

Thank you everyone for your company and sharing the leading.....A very enjoyable ride.

Denise

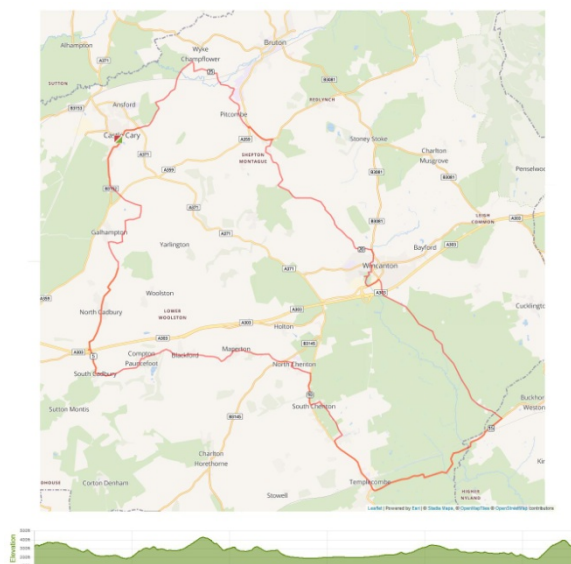
🚲 9TH SEPTEMBER 2022, LINDA

Starting from Hutton Moor Leisure Centre, Weston s Mare, and following the cycle paths out of Weston the route then went through Wolvershill, Banwell, Sandford, back lane to Churchill and on to coffee at the Vet School. Then it continued on to Lower Langford, Wrington, Congresbury and Puxton, via the Strawberry Line and on to Hewish for lunch at Carriages. After lunch, it was back to Puxton, May's Green, carefully crossing the A370 to Bourton, St Georges and back to the start mainly on cycle paths. A few moderate hills but nothing major, a total of around 29 miles.

🚲 22ND SEPTEMBER 2022, GRAHAM

Along the S&D Railway

Just four of us (Linda, John Win., Steve C., and myself) met in Castle Cary in the sunshine but cool breeze, prompting discussions about the number of layers to wear. We set off south along the NCN route through Galhampton and North Cadbury to our stop at the Chapel Cross Tearooms. A popular stop with only two picnic tables outside, we squeezed into one of the shelters for our coffee and cake. We can advise not to leave bikes leaning against the paddock fence - one of the goats started nibbling Steve's saddle.



22/09/22 – OUR ROUTE

Our route continued through South Cadbury, Compton Pauncefoot, Blackford, and Maperton which included a couple of short climbs. We then descended through North Cheriton and took the A road to South Cheriton. A back lane brought us to Horsington where we rejoined the A road down through Templecombe. From here we headed across Blackmore Vale, pedalling through Dorset for ½ mile, before turning north to Wincanton and the River Cale Café for lunch. The café had reopened only a few days ago but appeared to be well-supported.

Refreshed, we continued to follow the route of the old S&D railway out of town and along country lanes through Shepton Montague. As usual, we ignored some Road Closed signs and carried on through Pitcombe where one of the S&D bridges was being repaired. From Cole, there was a steep climb up a narrow lane towards Wyke. We then turned and tackled a long climb over Honeywick Hill to roll back down into Castle Cary.

Many thanks to the others for joining me on this ride, and I hope all knees have recovered from that final climb of the day. The total distance was 27.6 miles (44.5 km) with 1000 ft (305 m) of climbing.

Graham

🚲 13TH OCTOBER 2022, JOHN WI.

I arrived at Ashcott corner shortly before 10am. Ron S. was already there and it wasn't long before Linda turned up from Weston-super-mare both of whom had let me know they were coming. We waited until 10.15, the start time. Nobody else arrived so we made our way south towards Ashcott on what was quite a foggy start to the day. This first section involved the one and only steep hill so we were all thankful once we reached the top and turned on to cycle way NCN3.

We cycled along westward to the crossroads at Shapwick where we met up with Steve C. who had informed me by phone earlier that he would meet us there. By now having gained some height the fog was all but cleared and it promised to be a nice day. We carried along the Cossington road through Catcott and Edington until we arrived at J's Bistro in Chilton Polden. We managed to get a table for four outside in the sunshine and enjoyed our beverages with some of their exceedingly good cakes. I must say at this point that J's is becoming very popular with us cyclists so as "Fred Pontin" once said "Book early". Apologies to anyone who is too young to remember this!!

Fully refreshed we headed a short distance back into Chilton Polden before turning left onto Goose Lane and off across the levels. Apart from the dairy farm and associated excrement this lane is a very pleasant ride. Having reached the western outskirts of Burtle we carried on across the moors to Mark. From here we took the lane to Vole and eventually the crossroads on the A38 which we traversed taking great care at this busy junction. We then cycled on through Brent Knoll and after a mile or so turned left at the T junction heading towards Berrow. Upon reaching the coastal road at Berrow we turned left and headed for our lunch stop which was to be The Beach Café at Burnham-on-sea.

As the day had become sunny with no wind to speak of we enjoyed our lunch alfresco here. I must say at this point that it was an effort to stir our stumps and continue with the final stage of the ride back to Ashcott corner. However we did manage it and were joined by Pete M. just as we were about to leave. He had come from Weston where he and his wife had been viewing the artwork in the old pool on the sea front and, having taken his bike, had caught up with us.

So now we were five. We cycled on in a southerly direction and then easterly along the estuary towards Highbridge. From here we continued on towards East Huntspill and once again the Mark causeway which we turned left onto and then right heading towards Burtle. We were now back on the levels and the ride was very enjoyable owing primarily to the absence of wind.



13/10/22 – BURNHAM-ON-SEA

We continued on through Burtle and on reaching the T junction at Shapwick road Pete and Steve turned left for home and the rest of us turned right heading for the river path back towards the car park at Ashcott corner. All in all we had cycled some 35 miles which was a few more than anticipated but all the same very enjoyable.

John Win.

🚲 27TH OCTOBER 2022, STEVE C.

The ride was fine, with the rumoured rain just not happening, and sunny after lunch. The route starting from Draycott was as advertised, apart from a minor detour around Ashton Windmill before missing the turn to Chapel Allerton, then finding it thanks to Ron being awake. Well spotted. We stopped at the bakery for coffee / cake in Mark, as it was there. We therefore avoided riding up the side of the A38 for the planned stop. On to the A38; thanks are due to the driver who actually stopped, holding up to the traffic so we could cross. We need more of these. Maybe he thought we were XR (Extinction Rebellion), or ducks.

Then over Brent Knoll, and an easy ride through Loxton to Winscombe for lunch. Through the tunnel to Cheddar, with just the hill up to Bradley Cross before returning to Draycott at 29 miles, and on home on 2 or 4 wheels to finish the ride.

Steve

🚲 17TH NOVEMBER 2022, ARTHUR

Annual General Meeting at Pickwicks Café followed by a ride

The meeting started a bit later than 10.30 due to refreshments being brought to us by the café staff (we needed something to get us through the day). However it got underway at 10.45.

Out of a total of 26 members, four of which sent their apologies, 14 attended so a good average. There were five points to be discussed.

Item 1. The programme for 2023

It was agreed that it should be similar to the 2022 programme whereby a chosen volunteer chooses a suitable route locally or away, organises it and leads it on the day. There will be two per month from March to October with a change whereby the 4th Thursday will be less miles and not so strenuous, the 2nd Thursday will be for those who wish to travel further and are fitter, of course any member can join in with either. The other four months will be for all comers.

Steve has suggested that all organised runs will continue to be run on the agreed date despite the possible inclement weather and not be altered as it upset the plans of the organiser and those joining the ride. A joint decision will then be made by those who turn up. To be assessed later to see how it works out.

Item 2/3. Other organised events

Norman suggested that we should revisit the event we had several years ago whereby transport was parked at Bishops Lydeard and the group took the train to the coast and rode back or parked at a station near the coast, took the train to a station up the line and then rode back. To be investigated for different routes and costings for the mid part of the year.

Possible Audax events to be investigated too.

Item 4. Advertising for new members

Although the group has a good membership, new members (especially from the ladies) need to be sought to fill the gap when older folk cease to be active. It was suggested that advertising with other nearby U3A groups which don't have a Cycle section may be possible and these are to be contacted. eg. Shepton, Street and Glastonbury etc. This will be looked into.

Item 5. Any other business

There was no more business to discuss, so the meeting ended at 11.15.

Bills were settled and those 9 who were joining the ride to Glastonbury met outside to ride to the Somerset Rural Life Museum for lunch. This was approx. 25 miles via Launcherly, W. Pennard, Baltonsborough out and return through Outer Godney, Polsham, Fenny Castle and Wells which nicely burnt off the lunch. Pictures are from official photographer Paul.



17/11/22 – TOUR OF THE TOR



17/11/22 – RURAL LIFE MUSEUM, GLASTONBURY

Subsequently I have been approached to remind members of the Ride Safe Practices & Etiquette which John Sea. wrote several years ago and which still applies, please read. Click on [\[Cycling Ride Etiquette\]](#).

Thanks to those who made the effort to come and to those who gave their apologies.

Arthur

🚲 8TH DECEMBER 2022, GEOFF

We set off at 10.15am with seven riders: Ron S., Denise, John Seb., Steve C., Linda, Steve W., and Geoff (Ride Leader). Although sunny, it was a chilly 2 deg as we set off for Glastonbury, meeting up with Pete M. and John Win. at Somerset Rural Life Museum café.

Leaving a warm and comfortable café a little late we dropped down through Redlands Crescent and onto Kennard Moor Drove and counting over fifty places of habitation alongside the Brue River to Coxbridge. After West Pennard we rode down Page Lane towards North Wootton. At the next right turn, John Seb. decided to turn left for home. We continued onto the lumpy part of the ride, up Worminster and onto the old Wells road.

By the time we arrived in Shepton Mallet we were very late for lunch. Steve C. and John Win. decided to have a light lunch at Costa Coffee. I then got a phone call from Whitstones saying please get there asap, "we are closing soon". Unfortunately Arthur, who had decided to join us for lunch, had to wait quite a while before we arrived.

The fish and chips were worth the effort.

Our return to Wells was a short ride along the ridge road and onto Dulcote and the old railway line Cursley Point back to Lidl's.

Many thanks to all who took part in the ride: a total of 30 miles.

Geoff



08/12/22 – THE STRAWBERRY WAY BACK TO WELLS