

Flight of Fantasy - 13th July 2024

This years route was planned to take in some of the sights of a previous run of Trevor Bull's which took us alongside Umberslade Hall, the design and Development centre of BSA in the early 1970's. *(I remember some in the motorcycle press at the time referring to it as 'Slumberglade'! Ed.)* As Bewdley is undergoing a major upheaval with the flood defences an alternate start was found the other side of the river at Blackstone car park.



Using some familiar roads we made our way to Ombersley passing the Stourport Vintage steam rally and country show which was in full flow with many displays fired up. From Ombersley we headed east turning onto some quieter roads passing through Salwarpe and Droitwich Golf club. Crossing the busy A38 we headed on to Dunhampstead passing over the railway feeding Bromsgrove and Tewkesbury. We then had a straight run through Huddington and Grafton Flyford before turning north in Himbleton onto Bradley Green. We then picked up an old Roman road turning right for about 3 miles passing through Feckenham onto our Lunch stop at the Nevill Arms who looked after us very well with various baguettes and drinks and had made adjoining tables for our group.

After leaving we headed north east onto Sambourne before crossing another Roman road, then onto Wootton Waven, before arriving on the outskirts of Henley-in-Arden, quite a busy stretch of road. Pressing on north through some nice scenery of Ullenhall and Danzey Green before passing alongside Umberslade Hall. We then turned left heading to the north of Redditch before turning off on some quieter roads passing Dump House Farm, no not a misprint then onto Tutnall and Cobley. We then passed Tardebigge heading south west onto the outskirts of Bromsgrove where we picked up the A38 for a short duration before turning at Upton Warren into the water sports centre (right).



I think we arrived just in time as they closed up at 3.00pm. We enjoyed our drinks and cake on the balcony overlooking the lake until we made our way home. The weather had been cool for most of the day but the sun finally came out as we enjoyed our tea and cakes.

As for the riders who had joined us for the day it was a wonderful spread of 14 machines from 1930 to present and 250cc to 1000cc. However at our lunch stop I counted the votes for the Machine you would like to take home, and was won by Paul Harris on his exceptional Velocette Valiant.

My thanks go to everyone who came and joined the ride and commented on the different scenery as normal NBS rides tend to not use this area very much, and finally to Peter Gray for his time in testing the route.

Julian Edwards

