

Ian's Hundred House Run – 31st August

As a run organiser I always have dread of awful weather for one of my runs when I feel obliged to turn out hoping that no one else arrives. I needn't have worried with this one because we had the most beautiful weather on what was the last official day of summer.

Many other members were drawn out by the excellent forecast, and with the lovely Shropshire landscape, it looked promising for a most enjoyable day. So let's get riding!



Above: gathered in Norton for the start; left: Stuart Munroe telling John Shaw about his 'new' 1936 Ariel 500

Of course we would expect to start from the **Hundred House Hotel** at Norton. This gave us the opportunity to set off on a different tack to normal so firstly we dived down into the Severn valley at Coalport, and straight out again up to Broseley, then off to Much Wenlock and a gallop along Wenlock Edge before turning off in Wall under Heywood down a pretty lane to meet up with Corvedale. I don't think anyone else noticed the Snowy Owl sitting on his perch watching us go by. Craven Arms was our coffee stop and the start of the proper stuff. With just 1/2 mile of busy A49 we had a meanderance along the little lane past Edgton and then North to connect with the road round the south side of the Long Mynd to Asterton and Wentnor. Along here there was a Road Closed sign, but in finest NBS tradition we proceeded anyway and found our way past where some work was going on. After that we dropped into the Onny Valley. The sign post directed us up to The Bog but we didn't manage to go because

instead, we turned off down past a JCB which was scraping the gravel and grass from the road, and down to Linley.

A straightforward run skirting Bishops Castle led us to the climb past Bury Ditches hill fort and down again to the Clun Valley. Our Intended destination at the **Hundred House Inn** at Purslow was closed as are many rural pubs during the week but lunch was taken at the Old Wheelwrights Tea Rooms nearby (below) which just showed that you don't need to end up at a pub.

I for one went home a very happy bunny! *(As did the rest of us, it was a terrific route in splendid weather. Ed)*

Ian Harris

