

Paul's Saturday 6 Bridges (or 7 by 7) Run 24th March

This is the fourth run I have organized for the section, and at this point my admiration must go to those members of the section who organize run after run. Keeping freshness to the runs must be quite difficult; my hat goes off to you, so how could I do a fresh run. I sat down and put my thinking cap on, how about incorporating one of my favourite pieces of road, then thinking of my previous runs, which were a two bridges run, a four bridges run, so how about a six bridges run which would incorporate one of my favourite bits of road.



Time to get the Ordnance Survey maps out, put them on the dining room table and have a good look. After perusing the maps for a while, I highlighted all the bridges I wanted to

go over and also the one stretch of road I wanted to go along and also put an arrow in the direction I wanted to go, it was then a matter of snake our way across the bridges starting at Bridgnorth and making our way up to Attingham. I then started to look for a finishing point close to Attingham, after asking at two hostelryes and being turned down (*What?! Ed.*), the Riverside Inn were most obliging, and they kindly put it in the diary.

This provided me with a problem with the route, in the end I decided the only way was to retrace about 3 miles of the route and recross the bridge at Cressage, hence 6 bridges across the river Severn, with one crossed twice, meaning 7by7.

After putting in down on paper it was time to treat Mrs Raybould to a Saturday excursion into Shropshire and drive the route taking down mileages and signposts, on the way we added a coffee stop at the Woodbridge inn. After then completing the route sheet Martin Griffiths kindly did a proof ride for me. It was then time to sit back and wait for the Saturday morning.

Saturday morning came and as I looked out of my bedroom window I was disheartened, it was dull and damp and drizzling, yet not too cold. When I arrived at the garage at 9.45 there were eager motorcyclists already there. The kettle was put on and Mrs Raybould assisted by my daughter Martha kindly served tea and coffee. It had now stopped raining and the garage forecourt was full of motorcycles all raring to go. Hondas were out in force, there being 3, then there were 2 each of BSA, Moto Guzzi and Velocettes, followed by one

each of Ariel, BMW, Moto Morini, Jawa, Triumph, then the oldest Paul Harris 1930 Model 8 Sunbeam, followed lastly and of special note Tony and Christine Shaw's lovely Norton Dominator (Below) for whom if I am correct this was the first outing with the section on this machine.



A little after 10-30 a great crescendo of machines coming to life was heard and one by one the forecourt emptied. The route took us onto the Himley road and then through the village of Swindon, then up the hill and past Highgate

common and on past Halfpenny Green airport, making our way onto the Bridgnorth road. Then turning left past the lovely Ludstone hall. We then touched the village of Claverley and onto the main Bridgnorth road at Worfield. From here we made our way into Bridgnorth and crossed our first bridge, through the town we picked up the road to Broseley, turning right before the town to head to the Woodbridge inn for our coffee stop.

A brief rest and refreshments here before crossing our second bridge. We turned left along the river until we came to the next bridge; crossing this bridge we followed the river until the famous Ironbridge, where the road takes a left hand hairpin uphill bend. Later we took the road to Wyke passing through the



hamlet and coming to the Much Wenlock road. We crossed the fourth bridge at Buildwas and made our way up to Cressage where we crossed the fifth bridge. It was then up to Atcham to cross the sixth bridge. To get to our finish point we had to make our way to Cressage and recross the fifth bridge, which made it six bridges crossing the Severn seven times. We finished the run at the Riverside Inn, a number of us sat down for some food before departing our separate ways. I would like to thank all those who came along, making another successful run. Paul Raybould