

Summer Mid-Week Runs

Our thanks to Ian Harris who, in a fit of enthusiasm, offered to put on four mid-week runs this year, all of which he had planned before Christmas! Not only that but he wrote the below reports on the middle two.

Ludlow to Hay on Wye – 31st May

I thought that I was sticking my neck out by starting the Hay on Wye run with a coffee stop at Ludlow but with good weather to begin with, it drew 16 riders out for what was quite a long day for some. Among them were visitors Dave Dowling from near Welshpool on an R45 BMW and Colin Wood from Knighton on a Vincent Comet.



The inspiration for this run came from the first of 14 Welsh weekends that we did which all started in Ludlow and the route followed minor roads from the beginning. The idea was to stop for lunch at the Granary café in Hay which would bring back happy memories of those early WWE's, however the date coincided with the Hay Festival so it was thought best to continue on the planned route for a further 5 miles north to the Roast Ox at Painscastle (right) which as it turned out was a good decision. By this time it had started raining and there had been a flurry of over trousers being put on in Hay. We all sat together on reserved tables in the Roast Ox and jolly good it was too.

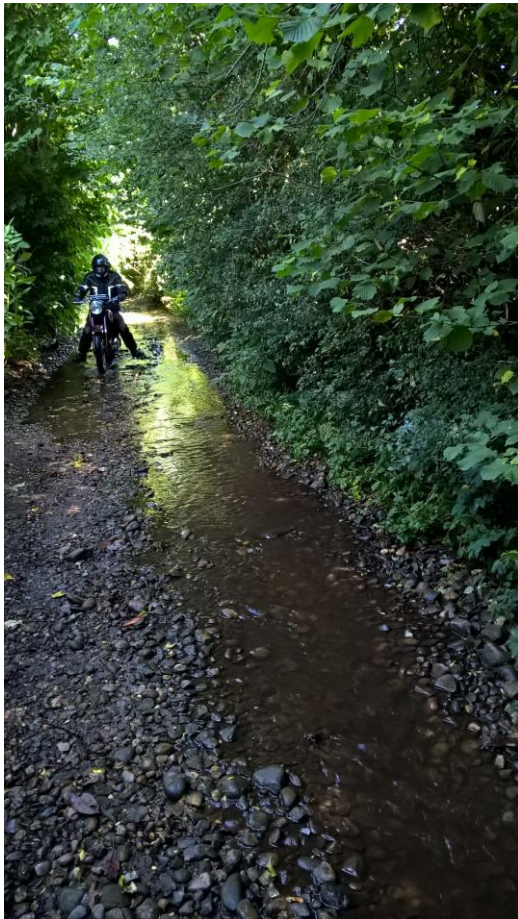


After lunch we set off up the lane alongside the pub which opened up to stunning views all round. Then after turning eastwards thro' Glaswcm we commenced the ride back. Glaswcm with its abandoned Youth Hostel took me back to my youth when a group that I belonged to sometimes cycled to the hostel from Wolverhampton for the weekend. (Happy days!)

The next few miles saw us gradually going from the remote to civilized until we arrived at Kington. From there the route followed the way back to Ludlow via Shobdon, Mortimers Cross, and Wigmore. Several of us sat in the square with our ice creams reminiscing about the day before going our separate ways.

The Shropshire Fords Run – 12th July

I first had the idea of a "Shropshire fords run" after looking at a website called "Shropshire wet roads" and was then encouraged to do it by a couple of our members.



I thought that because of the nature of the event, it would have limited appeal and was most surprised when among the 11 machines two had turned up with lady passengers, and I wondered whether they realised what they were letting themselves in for. Dave Spencer came along, signed on, collected a route sheet and then went back to where he had left Ron at the roadside with a puncture. By the time he had got back, Ron had started to fit a new tube and they were soon on the way to the start and just 20 minutes behind the main group.

The first ford was a stream bed with large slippery stones about 300 yards long (left with Ron Higgins making his way cautiously), so I suggested that some may prefer to give it a miss. The organiser should have heeded my warning but with small wheels and skinny tyres, not surprisingly came off. Ian with passenger Lesley gave it a go but Lesley wisely dismounted and paddled through. Fortunately none of the remaining 8

fords presented a problem. Most of the fords have been used at some time either on section runs or on the Levis Cup Trial.

After 5 fords and 30 miles a coffee stop at Kinlet was very welcome (right). This is when Dave and Ron caught us up after their late start.



There were another 30 miles and 4 fords to go including the infamous ones at Neen Savage and Clee St Margaret before lunch in our wellies at the Crown Inn at Munslow.

Ian Harris



Clockwise from above: Keith Little, '59 Ariel Huntmaster; Bill Harley, '59 Triumph; Paul Harris, '30 Sunbeam Model 8; Ian Harris and (Posh) David Gaffyne supervising from the safety of the bridge, all at Neen Savage; The Crown Inn, Munslow.