

WELLS U3A CYCLE GROUP PROGRAMME 2025

Reports and photos from the Wells U3A Cycle Group rides and other events in 2025 are brought together here in date order. The rides continued to be scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and were typically 25 to 30 miles in length without too many hills. They always included a stop for coffee and a lunch break to socialise and replenish energy levels. Details of each ride were circulated by email to the group members and posted on the group's web pages around a week beforehand.

As previously, all active members could be asked to plan and lead a ride, and the more informal arrangement of asking for volunteers a few weeks in advance of scheduled rides continued to be successful. Fortunately, with over 20 regular cyclists, each could expect to be asked to organise just one or two rides through the year. All members are thanked for their cooperation.

The programme of rides was inevitably affected by the weather, specifically forecasts of heavy or persistent rain. One ride was postponed to the following day and another by a week. Unfortunately, three rides had to be cancelled, one having already been postponed for a week. On the other hand, ideal weather was enjoyed on many occasions.

In addition to the group rides, café rides, as proposed at last year's AGM, proved to be popular. On every Thursday when there was no group ride, members were invited to make their own way, preferably by bike, to a café at 10:30 to meet up with others of the group. A list of cafés and dates for the upcoming months was emailed to members and posted on the web pages.

In the following ride reports, the leader of each ride is given after the date. Producing reports was entirely voluntary but there is one for every group ride this year. The author is named at the end of each report. Most of the photos were taken by Linda, with a few by Paul W. and Graham.

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.)

🚲 9TH JANUARY 2025, RIDE CANCELLED

🚲 30TH JANUARY 2025, ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT



Our annual post-Christmas meal for members and partners at The Queen Victoria Inn, Priddy.

🚲 13TH FEBRUARY 2025, RIDE CANCELLED

🚲 13TH MARCH 2025, PETE M.

Quite a chilly ride; my bike computer said six degrees, but the northerly wind certainly didn't help. Much to my pleasant surprise there were twelve of us on today's ride. A sunny passage through North Wootton and we had the benefit of a tail wind along Long Drove. Up to Middlewick Farm where we met two chaps on their way back to Sherbourne. All twelve of us managed to fit cosily around an eight seat table.

After coffee we passed the dreaded mucky farm but luckily the road was dry. On to Shapwick where we then rode into the teeth of the wind before enjoying the warmth of Sweets café.



13/02/25 - LUNCH AT SWEETS TEA ROOMS, WESTHAY

After lunch people peeled off at various places on the road back to Wells. Total mileage exactly 30 miles.

Pete M.

🚲 27TH MARCH 2025, LINDA

Seven keen cyclists gathered at Winscombe Rec. on a rather dull morning for a ride through Christon to Loxton where we eventually met up with Paul W. who had had a mechanical issue before setting off from home. Now eight, we continued through Edingworth to a short stretch on the A370 before turning right through Eastertown and back across the A370 to Lympsham and on to Brean for our well earned coffee stop at Cafe 33.



27/03/25 - COFFEE AT CAFE 33 , BREAN



27/03/25 - ON THE BREAN DOWN WAY TO UPHILL

Straight on to the "Brean Down Way", a fairly well maintained multi user path, which took us to Uphill quarry where the fire service were practising bringing a stretcher down the rock face. Through Uphill and on to Weston promenade then along the Toll Road to Sand Bay and Wick St Lawrence. A not too busy mile along the A370 to Hewish for lunch at Carriages.

(continued)



27/03/25 - LUNCH AT CARRIAGES, HEWISH

They looked after us well before the short trip back, in a fine drizzle. At Sandford, Steve C. unfortunately suffered a rear puncture and decided to walk back to Winscombe as we all passed him on the Strawberry Line.

A total of 32 miles. Thank you all for your support.

Linda

🚲 10TH APRIL 2025, RON S.

Nine participants joined me on the ride from Avalon Marshes Centre on a slightly chillier morning than I'd expected with the sun occasionally peaking through the clouds to occasionally add a small amount of welcome warmth. One or two of us were a bit 'underdressed' for the early morning temperature (including yours truly) so Phil decided to nip back home to pick up some warmer clothing joining us later at the coffee stop.

After half an hour we arrived at Fika cafe in Chilton Polden where we were able to warm ourselves outside in the sunshine and enjoy the home made cakes. Unfortunately, John W.'s back brake cable had broken and he considered turning back but, as intrepid as ever, decided to continue the ride as the terrain and road conditions weren't likely to be too testing with just the front brake.



10/04/25 - LUNCH AT BERE CIDER FARM

We carried on to Cossington and joined the NCN3 cycle path going through Bawdrip then enjoying the views alongside the King's Sedgmoor Drain and back onto the road. At this point, Graham left the ride to head back to Wells as we soldiered on across the Levels enjoying warmer weather and quiet lanes to Chedzoy, Westonzoyland and Middlezoy eventually joining the main road to Othery and then onto Bere Cider farm.

Unfortunately, service was a bit slow as one of the kitchen staff had to leave just as we arrived. However, we were able to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine and a pint of cider while we waited although everyone seemed to enjoy the food when it finally arrived!

By now, we had cycled most of the route and only had 10 miles back to our start point. We made our way back to the bottom of Pedwell Hill at which point Paul left us for an appointment nearby as we faced up to the 'Pedwell Hill challenge' which was no problem for Clive as he sped up the hill on his electric bike! Fortunately, we didn't have too far to go before turning onto Pedwell Lane and a welcome downhill run to the A39 which we were lucky to cross easily as traffic was at a standstill!

The bad news was that we then had to climb up the steepest part of the route to regain the ridge which John W. and Steve C. decided to avoid and rode off to find another route shouting that they'd "meet us at the top". So, we waited at the 'top'... but they never appeared! So, after a while, as we were very close to our start point I decided to head back to Avalon Marshes expecting to see them there. As they weren't there when we arrived, I called Steve, who said they were 10 minutes away and then they finally arrived and all was well.

My thanks to all riders who supported the ride....you know who you are!

Ron S.

🚲 24TH APRIL 2025, PAUL W.

A good turnout of 13 riders set out from Cheddar reservoir on our latest ride, undaunted by the planned climb over the Mendips. We travelled by Strawberry Line to Winscombe where we happily collected a 14th rider, and onwards to our coffee stop at Langford Vets College "Source Café" (see photo).

We journeyed onwards in the sun climbing on quiet roads lined with bluebells and wild garlic through Butcombe. Rewarded by views over Blagdon Lake we eventually reached our lunch stop at the Blue Bowl pub near West Harptree.



24/04/25 - COFFEE AT BRISTOL VETERINARY SCHOOL, LANGFORD

Refreshed we set off again, climbing steadily to eventually reach the Mendip plateau near Priddy. Various riders peeled off, but those remaining enjoyed the speedy descent, dodging the goats, through Cheddar Gorge to find our start point.

Thanks particularly to Linda for photography and Graham for his diligent sweeping up as the designated lantern rouge!
Paul W.

🚲 8TH MAY 2025, STEVE W., LINDA



08/05/25 - CAFE AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN, MASBURY

We met at Lidl's, where 7 riders set off in slightly cold weather, but this soon changed. We cycled up Silver Street then past the moat. After a short ride up Torhill Lane, we came to Bath Road. We then proceeded up the hill to West Horrington, turning left at the school. However, my chain came off my bike before the school and we were unable to repair it. Luckily I live close by so I could get home and put the bike in my car.

The riders, without me, cycled up to Rocky Mountain Garden Centre for a well-earned rest. I met up with them for a coffee and Linda agreed to lead the ride for the rest of the way.

Once refreshed, the riders travelled along a few lanes until they reached Bristol Road where they turned right and travelled for a short while before turning left through to Priddy. The sun came out and remained for the rest of the ride. They travelled to the end of Priddy then headed down to Charterhouse and then through Cheddar Gorge. At the end of Cheddar Gorge they then continued on to Wedmore. At Wedmore, I met up with them again (after getting my bike repaired at Mints in Priddy) for lunch at the Blue Bird Café.

After lunch the riders cycled home via different routes. Thanks particularly to Linda for stepping to lead the ride and the photography. Those that travelled back to Wells covered a total distance of 33.2miles.

Steve W.



08/05/25 - BLUE BIRD CAFE, WEDMORE

🚲 15TH MAY 2025, A CAFE RIDE



15/05/25 - SOMERSET RURAL LIFE MUSEUM, GLASTONBURY

The Café Rides are proving popular!

"I was one of eleven that met up at the Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury on a brilliant sunny day tempered by a mildly chilly north-easterly wind; a very pleasant way to spend a morning especially supping coffee and cake amongst like-minded friends." *Arthur*

🚲 22ND MAY 2025, PETER N.

We met at Bitton station, nine of us: Steve W, Linda, Paul W., Chris, Jane, Barbara, Graham, John Sea., and me. We set off in the direction of Bristol along the cycle way and promptly had our first break for coffee at Warmley station.



22/05/25 - WARMLEY STATION ON THE BRISTOL TO BATH PATH



22/05/25 - LEAVING WARMLEY STATION

Suitably refreshed we continued our journey to Bristol. We arrived at the harbour and cycled around the harbour behind the Mshed. I warned everyone of the dangers of getting wheels stuck in the railway rails. Everyone took notice except me who immediately got his wheel stuck in rails and fell off grazing myself and bruising my shoulder! Thank you for your assistance!

We then cycled around the harbour stopping to view the SS Great Britain. We then stopped for lunch in Wetherspoons with a view of the Floating Harbour. After lunch we continued via cycle route NCN 3 to Whitchurch via Temple Meads and the River Avon. We then entered uncharted country to cycle from Whitchurch to Saltford to pick up the cycle track back to Bitton. Many thanks for everyone's patience and navigation skills for this part of the cycle, especially Paul!



22/05/25 - SS GREAT BRITAIN, FLOATING HARBOUR, BRISTOL

Peter N.

🚲 19TH JUNE 2025, GRAHAM

This ride was postponed for a week due to the weather forecast, and just four brave souls joined me in the Castle Cary car park for a scenic tour of some south Somerset lanes on the hottest day (so far) of the year. They were Barbara, Chris R., Arthur, and Pete M., who had cycled from home. We set off uphill out of town on the lane heading towards Wyke Champflower. We then turned right to Pitcombe and rode on to Shepton Montague, the route threading under bridges of the old Somerset and Dorset line. This first section was a bit lumpy but thankfully there was a cool breeze and some shade. The route flattened out and we soon arrived in Wincanton for a welcome coffee break out of the sun inside the River Cale Café. ("Not a moment too soon" was heard.)

With the prospect of temperatures approaching 30 C in the afternoon, Arthur made his own way back to Castle Cary while the rest of us continued south into Blackmoor Vale. We turned right to South Cheriton and a short dash along the main road brought us to North Cheriton and a climb up through the village to the church. We then followed the lanes through Maperton, Blackford, and Compton Pauncefoot to our lunch break at the Camelot pub in South Cadbury.

Stirring ourselves from our relatively cool spot by an open window inside the pub, we headed for Sparkford then South Barrow and North Barrow where Pete left us to head home. Now down to three, we continued on our route, part of the South Somerset Cycleway, back to Castle Cary. I recorded a total of around 27 miles (43.7 km) with 1340 ft (409m) climbing.

Graham

🚲 26TH JUNE 2025, RON H.

After the heavy rain showers in the area around Wedmore in the morning of the ride the weather improved, and by the time we met up in Wedmore Car Park the sun had come out and the temperature was increasing. The ride was well supported with ten of us starting off from Wedmore after a short delay due to one of our riders having a chain issue.

The ride took us through Sand, Heath House, Westham and onto River Bridge where we turned into Chilton Drove and continued into Chilton Polden where we stopped at Fika Somerset Coffee. At this point we met up with Phil who had ridden from home and already had a coffee at hand. The coffee and cakes on sale were excellent and consumed by all needing refreshment.

As we set off to continue our planned route, Steve W. left us to return back to Wells as he had another engagement later in the day, which left us with the same number of riders as we started off with. We continued west through Cossington, Woolavington and Puriton then took Batch Road towards West Huntspill where we stopped at the Crossways Inn for lunch. The inn had excellent food and drink and would be recommended for future rides if they were to pass through the area.



26/06/25 - THE CROSSWAYS INN, WEST HUNTSPELL



26/06/25 - LEAVING THE CROSSWAYS INN

Suitably refreshed we left Graham to make his own way to Wellington while the rest of us followed our return route through the village of West Huntspill, and then crossing the A38 to East Huntspill. At this point Phil made his way home and the rest of us continued our way through Bridge, Watchfield, and via the back roads to Mark where Ron S. peeled off to go home. The remaining riders followed our planned route to Chapel Allerton, Washbrook, Stoughton Cross and back to Wedmore.

The whole ride was approximately 30 miles, and it was good to see so many members supporting the ride in excellent riding conditions, but with some strong headwinds at times. Many thanks to all.

Ron H.

🚲 10TH JULY 2025, DENISE

It was warm, with a slight breeze, when four of us left Cheddar reservoir car park. We ambled along the Strawberry line to Winscombe, where we picked up another member and stopped off for coffee.

After coffee, one member cycled home, not fancying the predicted afternoon heat.

So the four of us cycled approximately 15 more miles to the Salthouse. The final bit before lunch, although not under the shady trees, was via the coastal path, which had stunning views to South Wales.

We ate lunch outside, watching the paddle boarders and swimmers frolicking about in the sea lakes.

After lunch we took a slightly more direct route back, again we were lucky to have the shade of the trees occasionally.

Our official photographer, Linda, had more important duties to perform and was sadly missing from the group. Unfortunately, I never thought about photos, so there are none to show. We all agreed that it was an enjoyable ride.

36 miles return from Cheddar reservoir.

Denise

🚲 24TH JULY 2025, JOHN WH.

The advertised meeting point was Nunney village car park and the village seemed to be choked with cars and it soon became evident why – the carpark was temporarily closed for maintenance work. Luckily we managed to get the message circulated that it would be every man for himself to find a parking spot and for the group to gather beside the river bridge.

So we set off without too much delay towards Frome and Victoria Park café for a coffee stop sat outside in glorious sunshine.

We then picked our way along tracks and alleyways which formed the route of the National Cycleway Number 24 to Longleat. As we climbed towards woodland there was a barrier across the road with a sign indicating that there was no right of passage as it was private land. However we had the knowledge that we were on a recognised cycle route and continued past the obstruction. Further on another prohibition sign conceded that cyclists were excepted and we were then in the glorious countryside of Longleat estate and paused beside Longleat House itself. It was at this point that a cyclist came from the opposite direction and offered himself as photographer for a group photo.



24/07/25 - LONGLEAT HOUSE

Then came a very big hill and I led the group from the rear to Crockerton and a few hundred yards along a main road to the George Inn at Longbridge Deverill for lunch. The return ride through Horningsham and Trudoxhill still had a few ups and downs but nowhere near as much as in the morning – very pleasant countryside all the same.

John Wh.

🚲 14TH AUGUST 2025, LINDA

Firstly may I say a big thank you to everyone for supporting the ride as thirteen of us assembled at the Recreation Ground, Winscombe.

(continued)



14/08/25 - BENTLEY ROAD BAKERS, BOURTON

The sky was overcast and thankfully a little cooler as we set off towards Banwell Castle and down the narrow Rhodyate before negotiating the notorious bottle neck that is Banwell. Onwards and upwards we soon joined the first cycle path that would take us to Worle under the busy traffic roundabout and then through the twists and turns of Plumley Park. After waiting for two trains to pass, we continued over the level crossing at St Georges to our very welcome refreshment stop at Bentley Road Bakers with a delicious choice of cakes.

Rested and with the sky brightening, we set off again minus Jane and Steve M. who had to get back. The Pier to Pier cycle path again proving very useful in getting us to Yatton and then quiet lanes towards Backwell. The A370 wasn't too busy but road works at the bottom forced us to wait before turning left and then right to eventually join the easy going Festival Way. A last push up to the mini roundabout and straight over to arrive at our welcoming lunch stop at the Greedy Goose where we were served very efficiently.



14/08/25 - THE GREEDY GOOSE, LONG ASHTON



14/08/25 - GROUP PHOTO OUTSIDE THE GREEDY GOOSE

The return route, much more straight forward, saw us retracing our steps part way; then through Claverham, Congresbury and the Strawberry Line back to the start. We all kept together with no incidents to report and a total of 38.19 miles. Denise, Graham and Ron then had to cycle on home. I hope they made it safely. Thank you all for your company.

Linda

🚲 29TH AUGUST 2025, ARTHUR

This ride was destined not to happen. It was first planned for the Thursday 28th and required the car to transport the bike, but the car was sick so an alternative route was instigated which met at Lidl in Wells. Then the weather played up so the day of the run was changed to Friday. Fortunately eight folk could make it, Barbara only to Glastonbury.

We set off from Lidl at 10.00, the earlier leave time because we needed to be at our lunch stop by 12.30, our route taking us out from Wells through Burcott and Fenny Castle towards Godney along the delightful lanes in parts running alongside the river Sheppey. It was there, as I was out in front I spotted a quite largish bird flitting in and out of the trees and hedges; then I saw the swept back wings of a Kestrel, not seen too often. Not long after, a heron took off just in front of us. We took the shorter route to the Rural Life Museum for the coffee break where we were asked to put our bikes into a compound which was then secured; a change from normal!

(continued)

The next stage was straight forward down the busy lane through to Butleigh then left onto the quieter lane to Barton St. David. A short while further on was the 'B' road through Keinton Manderville to our lunch stop at the cross roads of Lydford on Fosse; the Cross Keys Inn.

The final stage back to Wells took us through the pretty villages of Lottisham and Parbrook to West Pennard where we lost John H on the A361 at the turn down Page Lane. He was behind a lorry and didn't spot us turning left so carried on to North Wootton and home. Meanwhile I went back to find him, so adding a few extra miles to my round trip back to Wells. We enjoyed good weather; the only rain (heavy) was while we were having lunch and we clocked up 30 miles with no breakdowns. Thanks to those who rode with me. I hope you enjoyed the ride.

Arthur

🚲 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025, RON S.

Despite the unfavourable forecast of rain and high winds four intrepid cyclists decided to brave the elements and join me at Winscombe Rec for the ride, two of which had already ridden 10 and 13 miles respectively to join the ride (unlike yours truly who arrived by car).

To everyone's surprise, the early weather was sunny and reasonably warm as we set off through the lanes towards Loxton and eventually onto the A370 and through Lymsham before arriving at our coffee stop in Wick. Amazingly, just as we arrived, the rain started, so we quickly locked our bikes up and dived indoors. As we worked our way through ginormous cakes and delicious coffee the heavens really opened and battered the café while we sat inside feeling quite smug about our fortunate timing!

Once the rain had petered out, we mounted our steeds and rode off as the sun emerged again and we joined the NCN 33 to Uphill and along Weston seafront which, unsurprisingly, was devoid of the tourist hordes given the weather forecast and strong blustery wind that was blowing. After Weston, we ascended through Weston Woods (with good views out to sea) and on to Kewstoke. As we headed out of town the rain started to fall and so I rode over to take cover under two large trees. By the time I'd turned around to beckon the other riders to join me the rain had stopped and all was dry again!

On we went to join the A370 (which was extremely heavy with fast traffic this time) so we decided to spread out to allow space for vehicles to get in between us when overtaking. After about a mile we turned right into Garden Park nursery and lunch at their café, Carriages. Denise arrived eventually feeling a bit shaken having avoided a large block of metal that had been tumbling and spinning along the road towards her, even though she was riding along the pavement! When we entered the café, we were pleasantly surprised to see Linda waiting to join us. Having had our fill, we emerged from the café into bright sunshine to collect our bikes when it started to rain yet again but fortunately it only lasted about 1-2 minutes and then stopped. Linda joined us for the last section of the ride which took us through Puxton and Sandford as we battled the strong, blustery wind before joining the Strawberry Line to return to Winscombe from where Denise, Graham and Linda continued cycling to their homes.

So, despite the forecast we experienced hardly any rain on ourselves ... which everyone agreed was obviously down to the meticulous planning by the organiser!

Ron S.

🚲 25TH SEPTEMBER 2025, JOHN SEA.

Six riders met at Nunney village car park at about 10 am to participate in that day's ride. As bikes, clothing and other equipment for the ride were being unloaded from cars and prepared for the ride, a rider with an electric bike discovered his battery missing and so 2 riders unfortunately had to return home straightaway.

(continued)

The remaining 4 set off close to the arranged departure time of 10.15 and headed down from the car park into the village and left onto the road to Frome. The first of the day's few steeper hills was encountered as they entered Frome. One of the National Cycle Routes was followed down into Frome town centre. Coffee and nibbles were taken at the Black Swan café, where another rider joined the group.

The 5 left Frome car park alongside the river before joining a lane which took them away from Frome in the direction of Great Elm. Just before Great Elm, a small lane on the right led to the Colliers Way cycle path, which runs alongside a disused railway line heading towards Radstock. This is a tree-lined and pleasant route, particularly given that day's fine weather with blue sky, sunshine and a few white clouds moving on a gently cooling easterly breeze.



25/09/25 - THE BLACK SWAN CAFE, RIVER HOUSE, FROME



25/09/25 - THE CHEESE AND GRAIN CAFE, FROME

Leaving the line at Kilmersdon, the group took to the lanes, climbing up to, and passing through, Coleford. Then on through Vobster, Mells and Great Elm. The route then retraced the earlier route back into Frome where lunch was taken at the Cheese and Grain café. Saying farewell to a rider who went off home by a different route, the cyclists climbed up out of Frome and returned to Nunney.

The 4 riders re-entered the car park a little tired but having had a very pleasant, trouble-free day's riding. A distance of 25 miles.

John Sea

🚲 9TH OCTOBER 2025, ARTHUR

This ride was conceived by Pete M, but a few days beforehand he sustained a back injury which prevented him from riding so I volunteered to lead it using his route which was mainly familiar to me. We met up at Wedmore free car park ready to leave at 10 am, but instead of a manageable six or seven, twelve folk turned up with Phil meeting us at Fika. So two teams of seven and five, the second led by Paul, set off for the first section.

The weather was initially sunny but cool, so the two teams meandered their way through the outskirts of Wedmore and joined the lane to Hundred House and Westham crossing Tadham Moor to Riverbridge and beyond. The moors around that area were beautiful in the early Autumn sun with glimpses of wildlife, mainly birds, occasionally crossing our path and the trees still green. We passed through Cossington, crossing the old S & D railway track-bed that used to run from Evercreech to Burnham and Bridgwater back before 1962, and finally on to Fika Café (was J's Bistro) for coffee where we met Phil who lives close by.



09/10/25 - FIKA CAFE, CHILTON POLDEN

(continued)



09/10/25 - MARSHES HUB, AVALON CENTRE, WESTHAY

Coffee break over, the route took us to Shapwick and beyond to Ashcott where there was a brief delay to mull over which was the correct lane to take. However all was well as it took us past the peat works over a very badly rutted lane and on to Sharpham to connect with the old railway track that is managed by the Somerset Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. It is now accessible to walkers and cyclists so we rode its length to the Westhay lane and on to the new lunch stop at the Avalon Marches centre (three elected to ride to Sweets via Meare). Lunch over, several of the group who rode from home departed leaving five to return to Wedmore.

I hope the route taken mirrored your proposed route as near as possible Pete; apologies for any errors. I clocked up 29.25 miles in lovely morning sunshine but overcast in the afternoon.

Arthur
(Photos by Linda)

🚲 30TH OCTOBER, RIDE CANCELLED

🚲 13TH NOVEMBER 2025, AGM

(This is a copy of the AGM Minutes with surnames removed for privacy)

Minutes of U3A Cycling Group AGM held on 13th November 2025 at Quickshifter Café, Unit 6, The Sidings, Wells.

1). Members Present

Peter N., Steve W., Geoff, John Wh., Jane, Clive, Steve C., Ron H., Arthur (Chair), Ron S., Pete M., John Sea., Graham, Barbara, Linda, Denise.

2). Apologies

There were two apologies received from Chris R. and Steve M.

3). Participating Members

It was noted that the cycling group consisted of 30 members with 23 of those being active members. Arthur would contact those members who have not participated for some time to establish if they still wish to be part of the u3a cycling group.

4). Ride Leaders

A reminder was noted that individual ride leaders should carry a small first aid kit, should there be a need to treat any minor injuries to members should these occur on the ride. It was noted that some members were already carrying these on rides.

Individual members' rides were deemed to be successful and it was agreed to continue this format in the future.

5). Café Rides

It was noted that the introduction of café rides which started after the last cycling AGM was a great success and will continue. Some members suggested that reminders of the café rides should be sent out prior to the ride, however it was noted that a list of the ride dates and venues were circulated at various times with this information.

6). Post Christmas Lunch

It was agreed that a post Christmas lunch should continue and Arthur mentioned some local venues that could be considered for this. Geoff agreed to look into this and report back to Arthur with proposed dates and venues for January or February.

(continued)

7). Rides Outside of Wells

It was noted that rides outside the local area requiring car transport to start points would be best to be kept within 15 - 20 miles of Wells to ensure enough members would support the ride. Recent remote rides had been poorly supported for a number of reasons such as weather, distance to the start point or parking charges.

8). Extra Ride in the Summer

Discussions took place over the possibility of an additional remote ride in late Spring/ Summer next year where an overnight stop would be necessary. The areas around Oakhampton, Exeter and Bideford were put forward as possible cycling routes. Clive agreed to look into this with regards to accommodation and report back to Arthur.

There was no interest in a continental trip which had been put forward at previous AGM's.

9.) Any Other Business

Steve M. has suggested setting up a cycling WhatsApp group where information could be shared between members who sign up to it. There were about 10 to 12 members present in favour of this and Arthur would discuss this further with Steve. It would be the Members own choice if they wished to use this social media facility.

The question of back markers being needed on rides was discussed to cover any members who were unable to stay with the main group. It was agreed that the ride leader would ask for a volunteer to take on this role if it was deemed necessary. However stops at junctions to allow members to catch up are normally the case where a change of direction was planned. The importance of telephone communication with missing riders was emphasized.

Arthur reminded members of the need for someone to take over from him as Cycling Group Leader in the future. Although this was not imminent at present someone new would be required to keep the group running as and when he retires. All members were asked to consider this.

Following the meeting 10 Members set off to Cranmore Railway Station for lunch, and the next group ride would be on 11th December led by Ron H.

Ron H.

🚲 13TH NOVEMBER 2025, ARTHUR

Our AGM finished about 10:45 in good time for those ten folk who chose to join me for a ride into the eastern Mendips to have lunch at the café within the confines of the East Somerset heritage railway; and what's more we were blessed with good weather, a window in otherwise wet conditions.

We set off from our host café on Wells business park to follow the Tor Wood path linking up with the Bath Road and its hill to the Horringtons where we were to lose our first person. To shorten the route a little we took a small diversion to the lane from Dinder (Thrupe Lane) and on to where the now defunct S&D Railway used to cross the lane. Very recently this route has been opened up as a multi-user path to Shepton passing through a tunnel at Windsor Hill. So we took it, eventually arriving at Downhead, North Shepton and on through various lanes to Cranmore station (a different line to the S&D).



13/11/25 - WINDSOR HILL TUNNEL

Following a splendid lunch, the group was further reduced by John Sea. who had left his car at Doulling to return home to Chippenham. It was then necessary to backtrack a little and head south through very muddy lanes to Evercreech, then west through the delightful village of Pylle, and north to Pilton, home to the Glastonbury festival back in the summer, which was evident by the glamping pods in a field we passed. Only another six or seven miles to go through North Wootton and on to link up with the Strawberry Line at Dulcote with a short ride to Wells, a total distance of 29 miles.

Arthur

🚲 11TH DECEMBER 2025, RON H.

A total of 11 members met at Lidl's in Wells for the ride to Glastonbury and then on to Evercreech with our return to Wells via Pilton, North Wootton and Launcherley. The weather was overcast with a southerly wind, but no rain was forecast for the day.

We set off at 10.00am with our route taking us through Fenny Castle, Godney (avoiding the floods) and on to Glastonbury with a stop at The Rural Life Museum Café for coffee. One of our group had a puncture just outside of Glastonbury but managed to repair it and met us later just as we were about to leave the café. Unfortunately he missed out on a coffee, but was able to join us for the rest of our ride. We met up with another member who lives locally who also joined us making a group of 12.

Our route out of Glastonbury took us down to the edge of the River Brue, past the parked up touring caravans , which are occupied by permanent residents, and on to Coxbridge. We then headed for West Bradley and East Pennard where we negotiated our first sharp but short hill. From there we headed down a steep hill into Pylle, crossed the A37 and on to the junction of the A371: both busy roads, which we negotiated safely Then we headed on to Evercreech for lunch at The Bell Inn, at our predicted arrival time of 1.00pm. A table had been booked at the pub and meals had been pre-ordered. I think the food was generally good and was excellent value as most of us had chosen off the Senior Citizens Menu only available on a Thursday.

While one of our cyclists had decided not to stop for lunch, the rest of us retraced our route back to Pylle and then on to Pilton where we had to negotiate another short steep climb. At this point another of our members headed for home, whilst the rest of us negotiated the planned route downhill to North Wootton where others peeled off heading home. Our route back took us through Launcherley and along the Strawberry Line to Wells where we arrived at about 3.15pm having covered about 32.5 miles.

My thanks go to everyone who took part in the ride, which was well supported and was good company, and I hope you all enjoyed our last main ride of the year.

Ron H.
