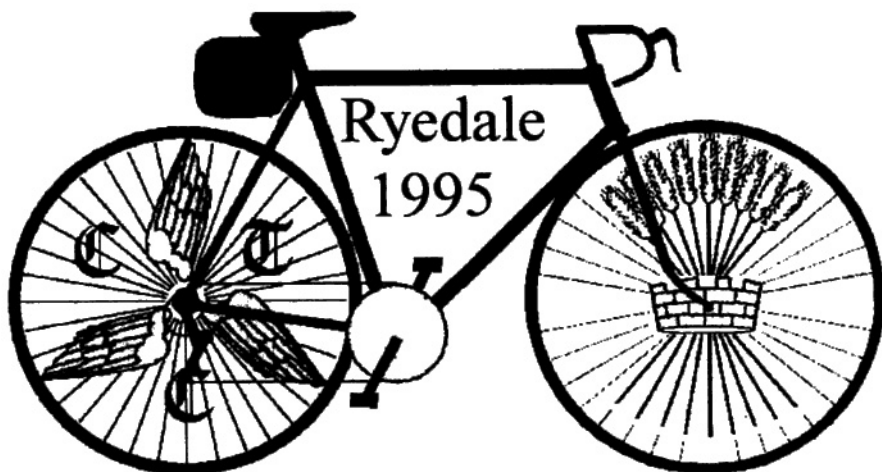


# C.T.C. Birthday Rides



Malton and Norton, North Yorkshire

Souvenir Booklet



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## Acknowledgements

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# **BIRTHDAY RIDES 1995 AND A RETURN TO RYEDALE**

Welcome once again to Ryedale, we sincerely hope that you enjoy the beautiful scenery in this part of Yorkshire.

For those who have not visited the area before, the twin towns of Malton and Norton are an ideal cycling base, situated astride the River Derwent in the Vale of Pickering. There is the contrasting scenery of the North Yorkshire Moors to the north, with the more gentle Wolds to the south. This is bounded by the historic city of York in the west, and the magnificent North Yorkshire coastline to the east.

There are many fine buildings in the area, Castle Howard probably the most famous, while there are fortifications at Helmsley and Pickering, and ruined monasteries at Kirkham Priory, Rievaulx Abbey and Byland Abbey. Generally the roads are quiet, but the hills can be steep.

We have arranged what we hope is an impressive selection of entertainment for the week, to suit young and old alike. While we have no control over the weather, we have otherwise tried hard to ensure that you have a good holiday.

**The Birthday Rides Committee  
North Yorkshire DA**



**"Ryedale has always been one of my favourite haunts"**

# **THE BIRTHDAY RIDES**

## **PART 1 - THE FIRST TEN YEARS**

The concept of the Birthday Rides was inaugurated in 1970 as an attempt to build up publicity for the Club's Centenary in 1978, the idea being to create enough interest to attract about 100 cyclists to Harrogate where on 5th August 1878 the Bicycle Touring Club, as our organisation was first known, was formed by Stanley Cotterell.

The initial Rides, which were organised mainly by Headquarters' staff, got off to a modest start. Based at CTC's Headquarters in Godalming, 30 riders took part in 1970 and between 75 and 100 in 1971.

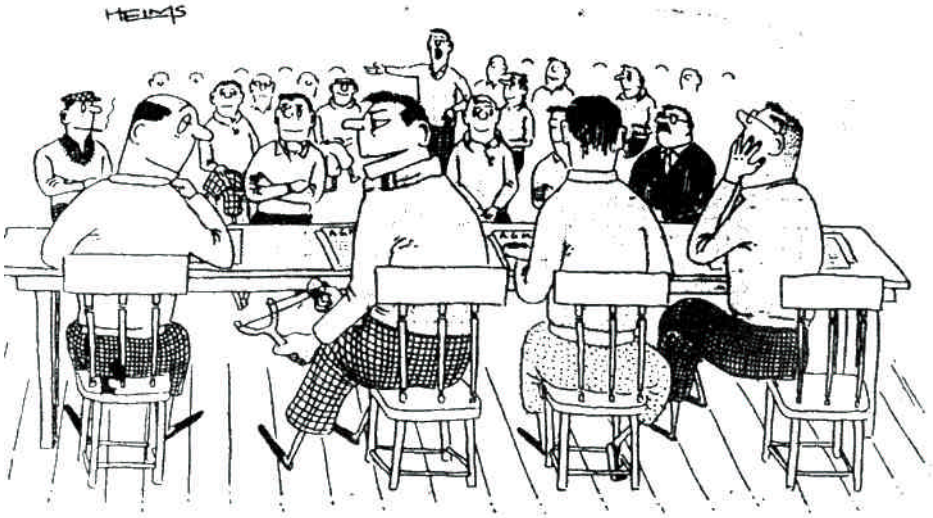
Following these two years, the organisation gradually passed to the District Associations, with CTC HQ providing the backup, 1972 being the first, when the Rides that year were incorporated with the International Cycling Rally at Loughborough. Even in those early days it was deemed necessary to divide the riders into groups in order to minimise disruption to other traffic. However, it was still a relatively low-key event and participants were able to stay at the local Youth Hostel without pre-booking, a far different situation today when the nearest Youth Hostel is pre-booked 12 months in advance for the sole use of the CTC.

By 1974, the days had been split into A and B rides, with a simple evening formula of Walkabouts, Slide Shows and the Birthday Dinner. 1975 at Shrewsbury saw another modest increase in attendance to approximately 150, the rides now split into three and with increased evening entertainment. Foreign riders who had taken part from the outset were still attending, but one rider from the USA created more attention than most when he was observed with a tiny rear view mirror attached to his spectacles and wearing a crash helmet, both unusual items in those days!

The next year, 1976, saw the Rides move to the North of England for the first time, with Alnwick in Northumbria the venue. Once described as a "No Man's Land" with pillage and plunder the norm, this now peaceful and beautiful area was invaded by about 225 exuberant cyclists. Since the beginning, the Rides had enjoyed reasonably good weather, but one disappointment that year was the cancellation of a trip to the Farne Islands, partially appeased by the substitution of one to Lindisfarne on Holy Island

The Rides were now becoming an annual pilgrimage for some, which in turn encouraged others to join, and when the following year (1977) the Rides returned south to Salisbury, with an attendance in the region of 300, the number of families attending with babies and toddlers in sidecars and kiddieseats or indeed helping their parents 'stoke' tandems was particularly commented upon.

In 1978, and 100 years old, the CTC returned to Harrogate, its birthplace, for the Centenary Rally. The North Yorkshire DA hosted the event, which was also integrated with the Annual Cycling Rally of the Alliance International de Tourisme, with languages from at least 12 different countries being heard.



**"Just let anyone suggest we host the Birthday Rides again"**

Estimates for the attendance varied from 700 to 800, and a temporary Youth Hostel was set up for two weeks at Queen Ethelburga's School, with an overflow of small tents outside, 650 bednights being recorded during the period. A campsite with some 200 pitches accommodating 500 people was also set up on the Rugby Ground, although some people left early because of inclement weather, which was experienced for the first time.

The celebrations were now beginning to assume the format that has served well ever since, the exception being that the week's events were from Wednesday evening August 2nd to Thursday August 10th. During the daytime, Standard Rides for those who wanted pre-set times and distances, and for the rest A, B, C and D rides with organised Morning Coffee, Lunch and Afternoon Tea stops provided in the main by the ladies of the local Women's Institutes. While in the evening, plenty of varied entertainment was provided.

Forty riders from West Yorkshire DA, along with a small contingent from Bygone Bikes, were ceremonially sent on their way from Bradford to Harrogate by the Deputy Mayor, to re-trace Cotterell's historic ride to form the Club 100 years earlier on 5th August 1878 Two members of Bygone Bikes rode High Ordinaries, impersonating Cotterell and Ineson in this re-enactment of the foundation ride.

So much had the Rides burgeoned, and such was the feeling of fellowship and camaraderie of those who took part in those early days that it was perhaps a foregone conclusion that the Birthday Rides would continue.

## **PART 2 - TOWARDS THE NEXT CENTENARY**

In 1979, the attendance dipped significantly to around 500, which was probably not all that surprising after Harrogate. From then it gradually recovered to around 850 at Warwick in 1986, when concern began to be voiced as to whether the sheer size of the event was becoming too large for the humble DAs to handle. However, such is the enthusiasm of local volunteers that even the huge jump to pass the 1,000 mark for the first time at just short of 1,150 at Malton in 1988 saw this event pass off smoothly, since when attendances have hovered around this figure.

As stated earlier the format for the week had generally settled down, but change still continued. In 1981 for instance the Rides were organised by Chippenham and District Wheelers, a local Club rather than the DA, and a superb job they made of it. 1983, with the event hosted by Norfolk DA at Norwich saw all the rides converge on Frettenham Village Hall for the Birthday Tea. Streams of cyclists of every size shape and colour, eating Birthday Cake and singing "Happy Birthday" had unknowingly started another trend, although it had happened before, in Centenary Year, with an A.I.T.-style mass picnic at Newby Hall. Leicester DA hosted the Rides again in 1984, this time based on the campus of Leicester Polytechnic, where obviously having learnt from their previous experience, they produced yet another noteworthy innovation. This was to produce colour-coded printed route cards for the different grades of ride. Both of these ideas are now firmly entrenched into the general pattern of events.

The weather is perhaps one of the things people remember most about their week at the Rides. Generally we have been blessed with good or mixed variety, however Tunbridge Wells in 1985, described as "the year with no summer", and Ayr in 1992, where it rained a Little and the wind blew hard, may have fixed themselves in the memory.

Accommodation, always a major problem in the smaller venues, led to a request in 1987 to the local populace of Haddington for extra rooms on a Bed & Breakfast basis. This met with much success, in the process engendering a spirit of friendship and co-operation with the community, and so another idea has been adopted as the norm in subsequent Rides.

Another alteration, that was at first greeted with almost universal horror, happened at Thame in 1993, when the concept of massed starts for the various grades of ride was abandoned, but with so many riders now taking part this obviously made a lot of sense. Indeed, for some years, some individuals on getting their route cards do a particular ride on a different day to that planned, and again this cuts down the mass of riders, but they have to make their own arrangements for food.

Back North to Hurworth near Darlington for 1994, delightfully situated for the Yorkshire Dales, Teesdale and the North Yorkshire Moors. With attendance challenging the previous record, they were superbly organised, with the innovation of "F" rides for families, and plenty of souvenirs.

Now in 1995 it is the turn of North Yorkshire DA to host the rides for the third occasion - the second time that the honour has fallen on Malton in Ryedale - and we earnestly hope that once again the cry "the best yet" will be heard.

### **PART 3 - BEHIND THE SCENES**

An event of this size obviously takes a tremendous amount of planning and tentative beginnings are made over two years in advance. Uppermost in the organisers' minds is that it is not just about arranging for a collection of cyclists to have a few days riding, but that they are providing a holiday for well over 1,000 people – a task most travel agents would not wish to entertain, or for that matter be capable of. The initial meetings bring forth a wealth of ideas, suggestions and the inevitable disappointments, but gradually an overall picture emerges.

Arrangements are made for Tent, Caravan and Headquarters sites, accommodation lists prepared, and not least the local Council and Police are involved. Visits to the local attractions – can we get a discount for members? A minimum of twenty-four routes (sometimes more) have to be ridden and run sheets prepared, dozens of meal stops to arrange, up to 20 evening entertainments and coach trips booked. Catering on site for the seven days, a logistical nightmare in itself for somebody, if done "in house" within the DA. Then all the associated printing work has to be prepared and sent to the printers.

Gradually it all comes together and is co-ordinated at the regular meetings. Bookings have to be carefully logged, and caterers and providers of entertainment have to be informed of total numbers. Then, as the big day approaches, the final and essential tasks have to be completed. First, the Caravan and Tent area has to be measured and pegged out, then the vouchers for booked meals and entertainment have to be carefully assembled for each party to collect on registration.

Suddenly the big day is here, and a constant stream of riders starts to arrive, some having cycled carrying their tents and equipment, others with their cycles on cars or in caravans, and a few by train, though this mode of transport is not "user-friendly", especially for those travelling in groups. A hectic afternoon and evening then ensues as participants are given their pack of information and reservations until, late into the evening, the melee dies down and everybody heaves a sigh of relief as they look forward in eager anticipation to the delights of the week ahead.

During the week of Celebrations, old friendships are renewed and new ones forged, there is companionship and laughter, commodities all too lacking in this modern day world, as that common bond – the love of cycling and the countryside – unites everybody. In the weeks that follow, many letters of congratulation flow, compliments vary from the organisation of the rides to the enjoyment the locals have felt at being involved in the event. Without fail, every year, it is said that "these rides were the best ever" – a tribute to the organisers indeed. But inevitably things do go wrong from time to time, hopefully not too much, and we learn for the next year. Remember though, the organisers are cyclists just like you, amateurs doing their best, and a suggestion or a word of thanks in the right quarter, rather than an ungenerous remark or critical letter, would be better appreciated.

From those modest beginnings then at Cotterell House in the early seventies, the annual Birthday Rides, now into their 26th year of celebrations, have grown into an event that is an essential part of the CTC's calendar – long may it continue.



## **PART 4 - VENUES, ORGANISERS AND ATTENDANCES**

1970	Godalming	CTC HQ	35
1971	Godalming	CTC HQ	100
1972	Loughborough	Leicester DA	100
1973	Bath	Bristol DA	100
1974	Ipswich	Suffolk DA	110
1975	Shrewsbury	Shropshire DA	150
1976	Alnwick	Northumbria DA	225
1977	Salisbury	Wessex DA	300
1978	Harrogate	North Yorkshire DA	800
1979	Ludlow	South Staffs DA	500
1980	Melrose	Lothians DA	600
1981	Chippenham	Chippenham & Dist Wheelers	700
1982	Chester	Merseyside & Chester DAs	800
1983	Norwich	Norfolk DA	800
1984	Leicester	Leicester DA	800
1985	Tunbridge Wells	West Kent DA	800
1986	Warwick	East Warwick DA	850
1987	Haddington	Lothians DA	800
1988	Malton and Norton	North Yorkshire DA	1150
1989	Monmouth	local clubs	1000
1990	Moulton	Northants & Milton Keynes DA	1300
1991	Hereford	Hereford & Dist Wheelers	1250
1992	Ayr	Ayr Section & Glasgow DA	1100
1993	Thame	South Bucks & Oxford DAs	1100
1994	Hurworth	Tees-side DA	1200



LANGTON

# **THE 1995 BIRTHDAY RIDES**

## **OUR HOSTS - MALTON and NORTON**

For the second time in eight years, the twin market towns of Malton and Norton (or to give the latter its full name, Norton-on-Derwent) welcome members of the CTC to celebrate the anniversary of the Club's foundation in 1878.

As with many twin towns and villages, there is intense rivalry between the two communities, which in this particular case has a significant historical basis, as until 1974 they were in two different administrative counties, Malton in the North Riding and Norton in the East Riding, the River Derwent forming the boundary between both towns and counties. When the structure of local government was reorganised in 1974, both became part of North Yorkshire, each retaining its Mayor as the leading official of its Town Council.

Though the two communities are broadly of similar size, Norton is marginally the larger in terms of population, and it has long been a bone of contention that the conurbation should be colloquially known as Malton. Paradoxically, both bus station and railway station bear the name of Malton but are on the south bank of the Derwent and therefore geographically are quite clearly in Norton.

Norton is famous for training racehorses, and every morning strings of horses may be seen on their way to and from the gallops on Langton Wold to the south of the town, passing the site of Birthday Rides HQ in the process.

An important centre since before the Roman fort of Derwentio became the basis of surrounding settlements, Malton has a thriving cattle market and a busy street market. Many of the Roman artefacts found at the various local excavations are on show in the museum at the upper end of the Market Place.

In Old Malton, the original town a mile north of Malton, stands the beautiful fragment of the only remaining Gilbertine Priory still in use in England today, while Orchard Field, which lies between the two communities to the north of the communicating bridge, is the site of the original Roman fort and settlement Malton also houses the headquarters of Ryedale District Council, which has provided invaluable support to the organising committee of the 1995 Birthday Rides.

## **SOME PLACES TO LOOK OUT FOR**

Depending on when you happen to read this, there's an even chance that you're either going to have a week to remember, or that you've just had a week to remember.

In any event, let me welcome you to Ryedale if it's your first visit. Should you be coming here for the second time, "Hello again!"

The weather stakes are a 'fingers crossed' situation, but as far as cycling is concerned, 'the world is yours' - or should I say North Yorkshire is yours. Most Birthday Riders will, I expect, go on the organised rides, yet even so there is always the opportunity for a little individual exploration, and should you wish to do your own thing then let this be a brief résumé of what you can look for

in either event. Places mentioned have been taken from the rides lists so that, hopefully, everyone can make their mind up what they look out for.

North from Malton, through the old village of OLD MALTON (799726), with its priory church of St. Mary, which is still in regular use, you are able to take the main road to PICKERING (797842) and the NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS, or still do that by forking left just over the A64 bypass and heading for RYTON (794756).

Within 100 yards you'll perhaps notice a Hawker Hurricane flying towards you, and the fluttering of the many flags of the Allies, for here is the national award-winning EDEN CAMP THEME MUSEUM (798735). This was in fact an actual POW camp, turned into a memorial to those dark days (though many of them weren't that dark) and you will find military vehicles to inspect and, under cover, some scores of original huts each of which has its own theme, be it the home, the blitz, submarine warfare, the bomber offensive, wartime shops, entertainment of the time, garrison theatre and much more, plus an excellent NAAFI and Restaurant where you can relax or, if you have children with you, there is an army assault course just for them, except much safer than the real thing! Collect a brochure from HQ or at the INFORMATION CENTRE (788716) on the high side of Malton Market Place.

Another quarter-mile and you come to EDEN FARM (797744), this is another 'hands-on' experience, where you can wander round, talk to and touch the animals. No hassle, a gentle restful experience if that's what you want, or maybe you're just a simple animal-lover and want to mix a bit doser with the other inhabitants of the world we share. Children or adults, you'll have a pleasant time here.

On the bikes again, perhaps, and you're still riding on country lanes, no great bother with traffic in this corner of Ryedale, except on main roads. An occasional tractor or car you can expect, but you'll find that most folk round here are very considerate of us cyclists. I know — this is my bit of country and I ride it every week — a bit of consideration always seems to be shown, and if it's a two-way affair then everyone is happy.

So far two 'organised entertainments' have been mentioned, and we are in the middle of the countryside, yet if you follow the signs to KIRBY MISPERTON, there you will find FLAMINGOLAND PARK (779796). One of the country's famous funfairs, zoos and caravan parks, out in the wilds. Everything (I'm told) for everyone, with one of the hairiest white-knuckle rides in the world, if you care for that sort of thing. So far, there's one in the USA, one in Japan, and this one. I've not been for many years, as I always seem to be on my way somewhere else when my wheels take me that way, but you can spend a whole day there, or at any of the others I've mentioned, should you so desire.

PICKERING (797842), I expect you'll visit, an old world market town with several cafes (important to cyclists!) shops, and two toilets (one on each of the large car parks). There is a magnificent and well-kept Winged Wheel CTC "Headquarters" sign on the wall of the Black Swan in Birdgate, and of course the NORTH YORKS MOORS RAILWAY. Here you can take a ride by steam train, "Vera Lynn" perhaps, or "Evening Star", or a Black Five, perhaps a Deltic, and make further north through the forests up to GOATHLAND ('Heartbeat' country) or Grosmont. Here you can give the guard a message to drop you off at NEWTONDALE HALT (837949), which is pretty well in the middle of nowhere, and then you can ride the tracks to your heart's content. Picnic perhaps, or ride upwards to visit the best example of Roman Road in the UK. Beautiful cropped grass to relax on, streams to dip your feet into, and decisions to be made about which way to go next.

Whatever you decide, the trains will accommodate plenty of cycles, and the guard will even help you on and off with them. Should you be getting off at Newton Dale, make sure your machines are not buried underneath a lot more (you get off on the left). We once had seventeen tandems and about five solos in the guard's van, and no bother. YES, we still have guard's vans on NYMR - the answer to everyone's problems.

One day perhaps you might include HOVINGHAM (666757) on your westward route out of Malton. This is the home of the Worsley family and of our much-loved Duchess of Kent (well, anyway, it is her birthplace, and I expect she still calls it home). There's a village pub (two actually), a post office and general store. A village green where you can sit awhile, and a bakery where home baking can be bought, still hot!

A track from here leads to Gilling and COXWOLD (533772). A little bit of tarmac here and there, but mostly farm track cum farm road. A few puddles now and then but an easy bike ride — you might walk odd bits, but it's not what you would really call 'rough stuff'. At the end of the track, the delightful village of Coxwold is the venue for the North's Annual Cyclists' Service, held non-stop since 1928 (you see it mentioned each year in CT&C).

On your right as you ride west from Hovingham, look out for AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE (599787), nestling in the hillside, the education and religious establishment

of many famous people and crowned heads of the world. Cardinal Hume was Principal here until he became Archbishop of Westminster.

On your way along, you will probably have noticed the huge WHITE HORSE (515813) carved into the hillside. You can visit it if you have the time, in which case you will ride through the Yorkshire Gliding Club's field, where you could also call for refreshments. If you pass the turn-off to the Gliding Club and ride another quarter-mile or so to SUTTON BANK TOP (514830) you will find a panoramic view for scores of miles which you can appreciate while eating your lunch and watching the gliders soaring overhead.

North from Hovingham, and a mile west from KIRBYMOORSIDE (you'll probably see it spelled with a second K after KIR — we locals are slow to change our habits) is ST GREGORY'S MINSTER, a church in the woods where above its main door is the oldest Saxon sundial in the country. Its history which goes back to the 7th century is fascinating, and nearby are shallow caves in the rock face where bones of sabre-toothed tigers, mammoths and other long-forgotten species have been found, evidently having been devoured by the wolves which used to roam this wild country.

If you're adventurous you could forge northwards by fields and paths, some walking, to reach the tarmac again and go on to GILLAMOOD (684902) with its Surprise View and its multi-faced sundial (with monthly correction factors carved in its base) and then on to HUTTON-LE-HOLE (706899) with its famous Folk Museum. This is a beautiful old-world moorland village, now getting commercialised, but ideal for travellers of all kinds for there are pubs, cafes and snack bars, sheep-cropped grass to sit on, and streams to cool the feet in.

Should the name KIRBY GRINDALYTHE 'ring a bell' on one of your rides, south-east from Malton by about eight miles, make a point of visiting the church to see the whole gable end of a huge pictorial mosaic which you won't see anywhere else. Its history is written in the church for you to read. The light switch to illuminate the gable end is on the left of the door — don't forget to switch it off when you leave. A small donation in the box would be appreciated, too.

LOW HUTTON, just a couple of miles south of Malton off the A64 has a narrow suspension bridge across the River Derwent. We call it a swing bridge. It wasn't intended as that, but as you walk over it you will feel it swing with you, whether you intend it or not. It replaced a hand-wound ferry which carried cattle across the river from one feeding ground to another, though I think the animals preferred the water passage to the bouncy bridge. Note how it is made partly of old railway track as its prime girders.

Another odd-sounding name WOMBLETON — will probably appear on one of the rides. Here still remains the main runway of a large war-time aerodrome where Canadian airmen lived, and died, as well as a still-operational watch tower for the Windsports Flying Club. Lancaster and Halifax bombers of Mohawk Squadron, and others, flew from here, a difficult airfield because heavily loaded aircraft had

trouble clearing the high ground of the Yorkshire Moors, and it became used largely as a Heavy Conversion Unit. Wombledon Caravan Site on the edge of the 'drome is perhaps one of the most delightful sites I have ever visited (they have a small shop if you get stuck for a choc bar or whatever). Everything tidy, clean and spot-on. A grass and trees site, where you can relax and watch the near-silent airborne antics close by if you wish.

Talking of aerodromes, pay a visit to the YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM at .Elvington (681483). Be prepared to spend a day there should you fancy not riding all day. It is twenty miles on country roads from Malton, and home of the Barnes Wallis Museum, and of a huge, beautiful HP Victor Bomber which served as a tanker in the Gulf conflict, name of 'Lusty Lindy' and still with its nose art well in evidence. Ex-WAAF, WRAF, RAF, RCAF, USAAF and Free French Air Force personnel too, will find an interest here, whether in the plotting room, control room, or looking at engines and memorabilia, as well as DH Mosquito, HP Halifax, EE Lightning, Blackburn Buccaneer, Canberra, Meteor, Auster., T33, SES, and Bf109, as well as Anson, Dragonfly and Waco Hadrian in course of renovation

The City of York has endless attractions to offer, and three rides go there one day. You can take the country lanes via STAMFORD BRIDGE (7145554) and see the memorial to Harold's great battle there in 1066 (the one he won, only days before his exhausting forced march to Hastings — no wonder he lost then!). Shops galore in York, or a day at the NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM, where there is everything from the Flying Scotsman to Mallard and Queen Victoria's State Coach and much, much more.

Yes, I know you came to ride, but most folks have a day off, so to speak, or like to combine a bit of viewing with their riding, so I make no apology for covering non-cycling aspects of your holiday.

Places not to be missed on the rides include THIXENDALE (842612), ROBIN HOOD'S BAY (955045), the HUMBER BRIDGE (022260), and if you fancy a quiet spell at the seaside, the smoothest lands you are likely to find, stretching from FILEY (120805) southwards, then head for HUNMANBY GAP (131772) A wooden cafe sits on the cliff top, where you can eat as you wish before relaxing with just the roar of the waves, on a beach which just goes on for ever. I know there' s always the ride home, but it too is a relaxing one along 'B' and unclassified roads, so that you'll be ready for another day.

Have a happy time — you know you deserve it — and North Yorkshire members will do their best to make sure you do.

See you up the road.....

DES REED







*The following villages and market towns are just some that you may pass through, and the information given, while only very brief, is intended to add to the pleasure of your days out.*

**AMOTHERBY** One of a string of villages on the line of an ancient Roman road from Fort Derwentum (Malton) to Boroughbridge. In the little church of St. Helen there is a rare 14th-century effigy of a recumbent knight.

**APPLETON LE MOORS** Originally called Dwelapelton, it is a good example of a one-street village with back lanes. Look at the three faces carved into stone over the house called "The Three Faces".

**AMPLEFORTH** Settled by the Benedictine monks in 1802, the Abbey has a magnificent Church completed in 1961. From 1808 they started the well-known Roman Catholic College. Both the village, abbey and college are located in a scenic rural setting.

**BEVERLEY** An ancient town, which history records as having its first church built by St. John of Beverley in 690AD. It contains a magnificent Minster, the beautiful St. Mary's church, and scores of superb buildings dating from Medieval times to the early 19th century. Many shops have Georgian fronts with perhaps the best in the Saturday Market, a large traditional cobbled square. The town is ringed on three sides by Common Pastures, which include the Racecourse. The area is known locally as "The Westwood" although this forms only part of it, giving the town a wonderful parkland setting covering two square miles. All in all, Beverley is a town to wander in at leisure, and soak up the history.

**BIRDSALL** A hamlet at the foot of the northern part of the Wolds, within or near the park of Birdsall House, the ancestral home of Lord Middleton.

**BULMER** A little village of stone cottages, red roofs and an ancient church. In the church is a coffin lid carved with a fine leafy cross and a sword, and the stone figure of a 13th-century knight in chain mail, with his hands in prayer, but with his legs cut off.

**BUTTERCRAMBE** Charming village with 18th-century Manor House, on the west bank of the Derwent, which is crossed by two narrow stone bridges.

**BYLAND** Village in a delightful corner of Ryedale, contains the lovely ruins of the Abbey founded by Cistercian monks in 1177 and ultimately laid to waste in 1539 by officers of Henry VIII.

**CASTLE HOWARD** Early 18th-century palace, with formal gardens, ornamental bridges, temples, and mausoleum, designed by Sir John Vanbrugh. Setting for the TV dramas "Brideshead Revisited" in the late 1980s and, more recently, for parts of "The Buccaneers".

**CAWTON** Three milk churns, on their little wooden platform, remind us of a bygone era. They are now used as an individualistic house sign for "Spring Farm Cottages".

**COXWOLD** Beautiful village where from 1760 until his death in 1768 humorist and novelist Lawrence Sterne was the vicar of one of Yorkshire's best-known churches. His then home, Shandy Hall, is now a museum to his life's work. St Michael's Church is also the venue, since 1927, for the annual Cyclists' Service organised by Tees-side DA of the C.T.C, assisted in recent years by North Yorkshire DA.

**CRAYKE** This historic hill-top village is mentioned in the Domesday-Book. It enjoys fine views over the Vale of York to many miles beyond York Minster. Crayke Castle, not open to the public, was built in the 15th-century on the site of a Norman castle. The Durham Ox public house is said to have been named after a medieval Bishop of Durham who fell from grace and was banished to live in Crayke, which was then buried in the dense Forest of Galtres.

**CROPTON** To the east of the village is the area known as Cawthorne Roman Camps, 25 acres of rectangular enclosures, thought to have been the training grounds for the Roman soldiers garrisoned at the Malton fort (Derventio).

**DALBY** The 'City of Troy', a turf maze, the only one in North Yorkshire, and probably the oldest in Britain, is nearby (GR 625719).

**EASINGWOLD** A small market town with old houses, shops and inns gathered round the greens and cobbled Market Place. The large 14th-century church has a parish coffin, a relic from those grim days when the bodies of poor folk were carried to the church in it and then buried only in a shroud.

**EBBERSTON** Eberston Hall, a small single-storey country house built in 1718 with gardens and a small lake, its interior is a miniature Castle Howard.

**EGTON BRIDGE** Nestling in the Esk Valley, it is famous for its curious and unusual Gooseberry Fair held on the first Tuesday in August, when gooseberries bigger than golf balls are the normal.

**FILEY** Small quiet seaside resort, with four miles of superb sands, sheltered by the long promontory and cliffs of Filey Brigg to the north. Colourful fishing cobbles are still drawn by old tractors from the beach to Coble Landing.

**FLAXTON** A village of Regency, Victorian and modern periods, the small stone church of St. Lawrence has a fine lych gate to the memory of twelve villagers who fell in the Great War. Cattle still graze on the wide greens, an ancient right, jealously guarded

**FORDON** Hamlet in a remote Wolds valley. its church of St. James is reputed to be the smallest in Yorkshire.

**GILLAMOOR & FADMOOR** Pretty twin villages on the lower Moors. Gillamoor's tiny church with a wooden tower commands an unrivalled "Surprise View" across the valley of Lower Farndale

**GILLING CASTLE** In a lovely setting, overlooking Ampleforth College and its extensive grounds, the castle, now the Preparatory school for the College, is the setting for this year's Birthday Tea. A late 14th-century fortified Manor House, it was substantially rebuilt on top of the old medieval walls and with the addition of the Great Chamber in 1585. This room survived a further rebuilding in the 18th-century almost unaltered, and is panelled in English Oak, with a frieze above displaying the Arms of the Gentlemen of Yorkshire. There is an ornate plaster ceiling, and heraldic decoration in the painted glass of the South Window. The Castle passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Fairfax, Colonel of Cromwell's Model Army, in 1489, and remained in the Fairfax family until 1885, then passing through several hands until purchased by the Monks of Ampleforth in 1929 Although the Monks' Garden is normally open to the public, the Great Hall is not, and we are fortunate to be able to view this magnificent example of the richness and elaboration of a late Elizabethan room.

**GLAISDALE** An elegant arched packhorse bridge over the River Esk was built in 1619 and called Beggar's Bridge after a local legend.

**GYPSEY RACE** A unique stream which flows through the Wolds, it is spring-fed and empties into the sea at Bridlington. It can stay dry for many years, then almost overnight become fast flowing. Its rise is reputed to foretell an impending national disaster.

**HELMSLEY** This market town in north west Ryedale is overlooked by the remains of a castle, progressively built from the 12th to 17th century, and destroyed during the Civil War. Now preserved by English Heritage, it has a unique 'D'-shaped keep. Nearby Duncombe Park, built by Vanbrugh about the same time as Castle Howard, is set in 600 acres of tranquil parkland.

**HOLTBY** Originally founded by Norsemen, the village is now a mixture of old cottages, farms and modern dwellings. It contains a village pump which was boxed in 1979, and one of the few remaining Victorian wall letter-boxes in Ryedale.

**HOVINGHAM** A picturesque village of great antiquity, with wide spacious streets lined with tall trees. Beautiful gardens and orchards hide behind Georgian and older buildings, while the village stream adds to the beauty. The church has a Saxon tower (circa 1043) one of only seven in Yorkshire, and the remains of a Saxon cross and a stone reredos portraying New Testament scenes dating from about AD 770. The magnificent 18th-century Hovingham Hall, family seat of the Worsley family, is an integral part of the village.

**HUTTON LE HOLE** One of the most picturesque villages in Ryedale, it is home to the Ryedale Folk Museum, recalling life in Ryedale through the ages. Housed in what was a range of 18th-century farm buildings, there is a cruck house, 16th-century manor house, and the best restored glass furnace in Britain



**KILBURN** "Mouse Man" Robert Thompson's furniture works has made this village famous throughout the world. The "White Horse" cut into the 1 in 4 escarpment above the village is a distinctive landmark for miles around.

**KILHAM** Situated on an old Roman Road, Kilham's archaeological achievement was the discovery on a site above the village of the remains of a Roman villa, with a tiled floor and many other artefacts, which are now on display in a Hull museum.

**KIRKBYMOORSIDE** This quiet market town, recorded in the Domesday Book, has narrow twisting streets, Georgian houses and cobbled market square.

**KIRKDALE** St. Gregory's Minster, tiny Saxon church, with a Viking sundial dating from about 1055.

**KIRKHAM** Riverside ruins of Kirkham Priory, with heraldic shields over the 13th-century gate house, situated in the Derwent Gorge, where the river is crossed by a beautiful stone bridge.

**LANGTOFT** A haven of peace, nestled in the Wolds, its main claim to fame is its record of freak weather conditions and violent storms which have affected the village.

**LANGTON** One of Ryedale's loveliest villages, with grey stone houses along a street lined with mature trees. In the church lies an unusually sad monument to a lady who died giving birth to twins who also failed to survive. A long eulogistic poem stands above.

**LASTINGHAM** Peaceful village below the moors. The church has a Norman crypt which incorporates part of a Benedictine Abbey, itself built on earlier remains.

**LONDESBOROUGH** A secluded country village in the Wolds, it has a group of six almshouses built in 1679, and a church built in the early 12th century.

**LOWNA** A tiny hamlet at the bottom of two steep hills in lower Farndale, where a bridge crosses the River Dove.

**MARKET WEIGHTON** The main street is one of the East Riding's earliest Turnpike roads. Nearby is the course of the Kiplingcotes Derby, a steeplechase first run in 1519.

**MILLINGTON** Peaceful Wolds village, with nearby woods maintained as a wildlife habitat.

**MURTON** On the eastern outskirts of York, here is the Yorkshire Museum of Farming, a living record of farming over the last 200 years.

**NEWBURGH** Half a mile south of Coxwold, a 17th-century house is built on the site of a 12th-century Augustinian Priory. It is rumoured that Oliver Cromwell's body was buried here in a brick vault by his daughter Mary, the wife of Earl Fauconberg whose family home this was. The vault has never been opened to settle the question.

**NORTH DALTON** Attractive Wolds village with large village pond surrounded on three sides by dense woodland and a haven for wildlife. The church stands opposite, on a conical mound

**NUNNINGTON** Nunnington Hall, a large 17th-century Manor House, now the property of the National Trust, contains the famous 22 miniature rooms of the Carlisle Collection, furnished and decorated in styles of different periods. It is said to be haunted.

**PICKERING** Dating from around 270 BC, this is the largest and probably the oldest of the Ryedale market towns, and is overlooked by the impressive ruins of the 12th-century castle once used as a hunting lodge by medieval English kings. The parish church contains 15th-century murals re-discovered in 1851 beneath a layer of whitewash and subsequently restored in 1878



**POCKLINGTON** Has a magnificent church, known as the 'Cathedral of the Wolds', also 'Penny Arcadia' museum — a collection of 'slot' and 'What The Butler Saw' machines. Burnby Hall Gardens nearby contain a unique collection of lily ponds in a picturesque parkland setting, as well as a memorial seat dedicated to George Herbert Stancer, former CTC National Secretary and President, who was born in Pocklington.

**RALPH'S CROSS** One of many ancient stone crosses on the high moors, now adopted as the symbol of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park, it is at the highest point on the Kirkbymoorside to Castleton road.

**RAVENSCAR** 'The Town That Never Was' The Raven Hall Hotel was once a private house where George HI was sent during his frequent bouts of madness. The series of roads, dotted with an occasional house, is all that came of a grandiose attempt to build another large seaside resort. There is a wonderful view from the 600ft headland across Robin Hood's Bay.

**RIEVAULX** Tiny village in a secluded valley, nestling close to the majestic ruins of the great abbey. The Abbey, which was founded by the Cistercians in 1131 and remained until the Dissolution in 1536, played a big part in the emergence of Ryedale from a backwater to a thriving area. Nearby on a hill is Rievaulx Terrace, in the care of the National Trust, a ½-mile grassy walk with Ionic Temple at the north end and a Tuscan Temple to the south. On his elevation to the peerage, ex-Prime Minister Harold Wilson took the title Lord Wilson of Rievaulx after his ancestors who lived in the village.

**RUDSTON** The 25ft-high Rudston Monolith (or Rood Stone), with as much of its bulk again below ground, and said to be the tallest Standing Stone in England, stands in the churchyard.

**SAND HUTTON** The church contains a most beautiful stained glass window, and in the churchyard are the ruins of St. Leonard's Chapel dating from the 12th century. From 1912 until 1933 a garden railway, which developed into the Sand Hutton Light Railway, connected Bossall and Claxton with the NER York-Hull line at Warthill.

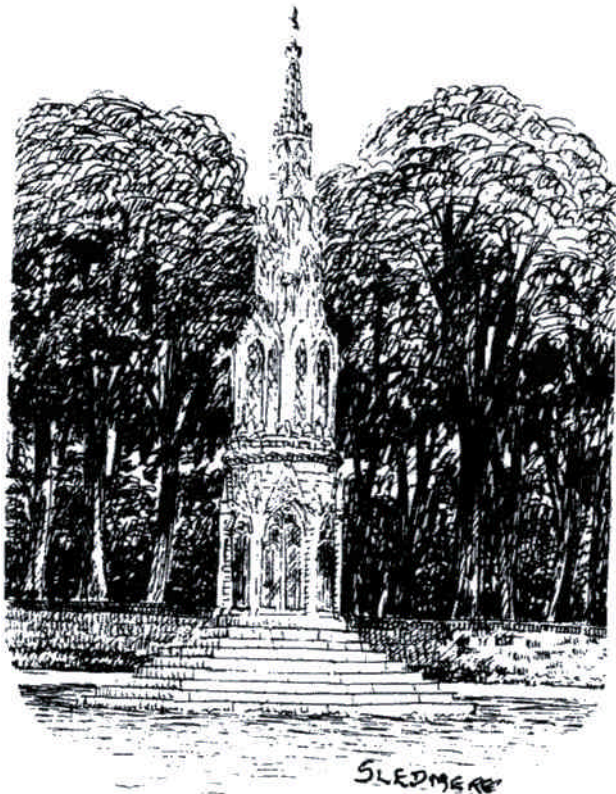
**SCRAYINGHAM** Quiet hamlet on the River Derwent, its claim to fame is the churchyard where George Hudson, 'The Railway King', lies at rest.

**SETTRINGTON** Nestling in a quiet corner, this spacious and picturesque red-roofed village stands at the foot of the Wolds, while a little beck winding through adds to the charm. Settrington House, designed in 1790 and built of yellow stone, stands next to the village church.



**SHERIFF HUTTON** The ruins of the four towers form the prominent remains of the 12th-century Castle which once stood guard over the village, only the keep still survives in reasonable condition. The church is dedicated to St. Helen, mother of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire, proclaimed its ruler in Eboracum (York) in AD 306. It is the only church in England, outside London, to have the tomb of a Prince of Wales, and the elaborate memorial to this, dating from about 1484, is an interesting part of the church.

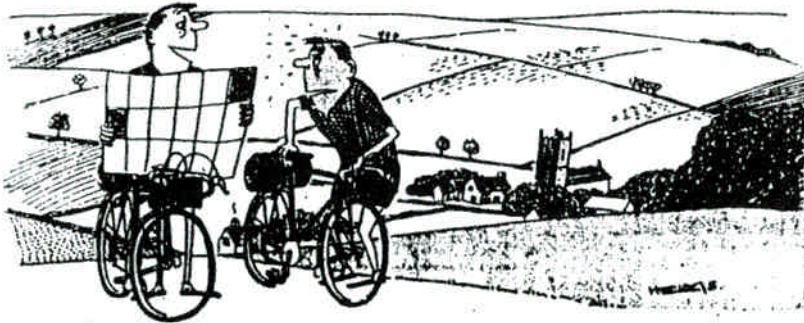
**SLEDMERE** The original village was re-located by 'Capability' Brown to improve the view from the beautiful Georgian manor house, over the grounds he designed. There are two remarkable carved stone monuments in the village. One is a jingoistic War Memorial, the other a unique memorial to The Waggoners Reserve, a volunteer Corps of 1,000 local farm-workers who provided horse-drawn transport on the battlefields of the First World War.





**SLINGSBY** The largest village along 'le Street', a former Roman Road. The 12th-century church of All Saints, very much rebuilt in 1868, contains an effigy of a knight in chain mail with sword and shield. A large Maypole stands on the village green.

**STAMFORD BRIDGE** Site of the last Saxon battle against the Danes in 1066, won by Harold just in time to learn of the Normans' landing at Hastings. A local beauty spot is the fierce weir by which stands The Old Corn Mill, now a restaurant.



"You were quite right, the meal stop was at the bottom of the hill"

**STAPE** Moorland village at the start of the drove road to Egton over the Moors, passing Wade's Causeway, a superb example of a Roman Road, and visible for much of its length.

**STONEGRAVE** A small village with a little church which is entitled to call itself a Minster, as it once had a monastery attached. In the churchyard is an interesting medieval tombstone, which actually reads as a Will and Testament.

**TERRINGTON** Georgian and Victorian houses standing back from wide grass verges, the village has its origins before the Norman Conquest. The grave of Richard Spruce, one of England's most famous botanists, is in the churchyard.

**THIXENDALE** One of the remotest Wolds villages, it is at the centre of numerous 'dry valleys' of glacial origin. A popular overnight stop on the long-distance footpath 'The Wolds Way'.

**THORNTON LE DALE** For many years officially referred to as 'Thornton Dale', its ancient name was restored by local popular demand in the late 1980s. Twelve almshouses built in 1670 are still in use, while a delightful thatched cottage by Thornton Beck is one of the most-photographed houses in Yorkshire. Further upstream are attractive rows of cottages from the Georgian era to the early part of the 1900s.



**WEAVERTHORPE** A straggling village lying in the Great Wold Valley, which runs from Wharram to Rudston. Many little stone bridges cross the 'Gypsy Race' Stream.

**WEST HESLERTON** Has been a settlement since early Neolithic and Bronze Age man, but the most recent discovery is of an Anglo-Saxon village to the east of the present settlement. This comprises the cemetery and houses of Esrelton dating back to AD 450 and places the 60 or 70 buildings and artefacts unearthed as one of the most important Anglo-Saxon sites in Europe.

**WETWANG** A typical Wolds village, extending for half a mile along a broad street fronted by 18th and 19th century buildings, with an ancient pond at the end

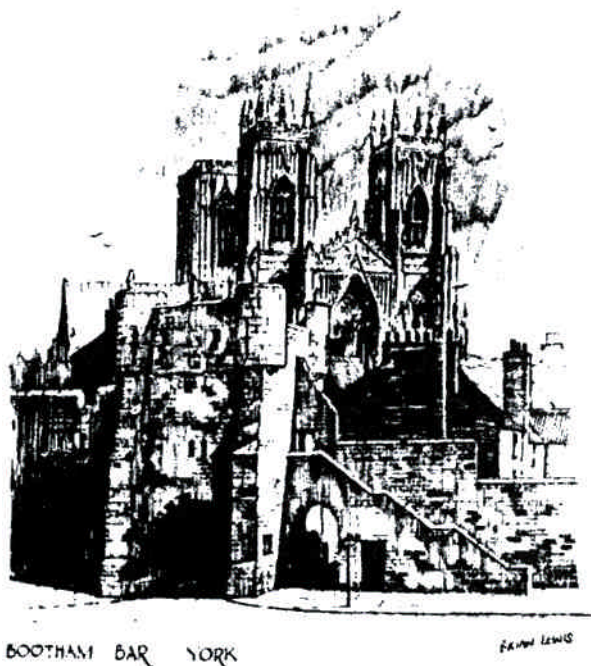
**WHARRAM LE STREET** High on the Yorkshire Wolds, this is another pretty village with fine views over the Vale of Pickering. It is on the southern half of the Roman Road (le Street) from Boroughbridge to Petuaria (Brough) on the Humber and then to Lincoln.

**WHARRAM PERCY** Site of the excavated remains of a deserted medieval village. The shell of the church, manor house and the village pond which is fed by springs, are the most interesting remains.

**WOLD NEWTON** The most northerly village in the present (and soon to be defunct) County of Humberside has a large pond on the village green. Named as Newton Rochford in the Domesday Book, it is believed to have been built on an old Anglian settlement, while there are two large burial mounds nearby.

**WOMBLETON** A long, straggling village with ancient stone houses. The local hostelry, 'The Plough Inn' is a medieval cruck-framed building, as are numerous other dwellings.

**YORK** Previously known as Eboracum to the Romans and Jorvic to the Vikings, its walls have existed since Roman times in various versions. Narrow streets, beautiful buildings, ancient churches of which the crowning glory must be the Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in Europe. It is recorded that the late King George VI said 'the history of York is the history of England', and it cannot be far from the truth, as history is written in and under almost every stone.



## **THE 1996 BIRTHDAY RIDES - LANCASTER**

The Birthday Rides in 1996 are planned to be based in the historic CITY OF LANCASTER and will be hosted by THE LUNES AND LAKES D.A. and, to whet your appetite for next year, here is a brief look at what the area has to offer.

Situated in a predominantly rural area, Lancaster is surrounded by a network of minor roads and country lanes which give access to the countryside within two or three miles of leaving the city centre. Lancaster is in the virtually unique situation of being close to two National Parks and within a few miles of the beautiful scenery surrounding Morecambe Bay and also in the area of North Lancashire which has considerable beauty in its own right.

To the north is the Lake District National Park where the stronger riders will be able to visit the southern fringe of this area of spectacular scenery. Over to the east is the Yorkshire Dales National Park, encompassing the Three Peaks of Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-ghent, an area which is well within the range of most riders.

For those who do not wish to cover too many miles, there is the delightful scenery along the edge of Morecambe Bay or, as a complete contrast, the wild moorland of High Cross Moor and the Trough of Bowland. South of the city is an equally attractive area comprising a multitude of country lanes virtually free of motor traffic, allowing one to visit a series of small villages. Here the natural undulation of the land provides many viewpoints which give a panoramic view of the area.

Lancaster itself has a castle, a cathedral and a number of other smaller buildings of historical importance, while in a prominent position overlooking the district is the famous Ashton Memorial, an imposing folly built by a local wealthy industrialist. Close by is Leighton Moss, a Mecca for bird watchers, while railway enthusiasts might visit Steamtown' at Carnforth

All in all, Lancaster offers a wide range of scenery from mountain and moorland to coast, all linked by miles of country lanes.

The Birthday Rides will be based at St. Martin's College, which is set in extensive grounds on the south side of the city. Since it is situated away from the major roads leading in and out of Lancaster, it will usually be possible to reach the countryside within a few minutes of leaving the College grounds. There are several cycle tracks within easy reach which provide traffic-free riding, while British Waterways have recently opened a section of nearby canal towpath to cycling. The College will be able to provide for camping and the parking of caravans, bed and breakfast accommodation and meals using the residential amenities. There are also facilities for lectures and social activities, so it is expected that virtually all the events associated with the Birthday Rides will take place at the College.

## **THE CYCLIST'S PLEA**

Protect me from punctures  
And gears that slip,  
And people who ask if  
I've had a good trip.  
From hills that go up  
Never seem to descend,  
And bike-wearry knees  
That complain when they bend  
From Drivers who think  
That they own all the road,  
Flies in their thousands  
That taunt me and goad.  
Last but not least,  
Give me muscles of steel  
For pounding the pedals  
To turn the back wheel



**"I told Og about your  
invention. He's coming  
over on his bike to  
have a look!"**

We hope tha' stay 'as dun thee proud,  
Wi' peace and quiet an' Yorkshire crowd.  
Our wish afore ye hit the track -  
Safe journey home 'n' please come back.



