

## 2024 Soup Run

by Lesley Smith

21 April, 2024



The soup run is always a popular event on the Section's calendar and this year was more popular than ever. Sadly, James was unable to lead the ride due to a recent knee op, so he asked us to lead. He had already done the hard part – planning the meeting place and the route, so it was an easy task.

The day started with coffee at the Beechcroft Farm Shop, near Winchester. We were expecting 5 bikes, but the good weather brought everyone out and we ended up leading 14 bikes, with Chris & Alison as backmarkers. We also picked up a couple more along the way.



In typical James fashion, the route took us on quiet, winding, country lanes across Hampshire to Arundel in West Sussex, enjoying some stunning views across Old Winchester Hill, Butser Hill and the South Downs on the way.



We delivered everyone to James and Helen's farm at 1 o'clock (dead on time), thinking that we'd all had a smooth, uneventful ride – not so. Andy & Sarah had dropped out due to a puncture, and Erica's top box had been slowly losing its contents en-route. Nevertheless, it all ended well –

Andy & Sarah weren't far from home, so they were able to limp back and jump in their car to join us for a bowl of soup, and Chris & Alison had rescued Erica's "stuff". Others had arrived under their own steam and we all tucked into the delicious homemade soup, bread and cakes which Helen had been working hard for days to provide.



The soup run is always one of the most popular events on our club calendar and this year was no exception. More than 30 members gathered in James and Helen's farmhouse, and it was good to meet some new members and representatives from the disbanded London section. A good day was had by all and huge thanks must go to James for his route planning, to Chris & Alison for keeping an eye on everyone from the back of the pack, and to Helen for such a wonderful spread.