

Paul & Marion's August Picnic

by Marion Matchett

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With so many other activities on at this time of the year, it was always going to be interesting to see how many club members arrived for the August ride-out. In the end, we were joined by 6 other bikers (3 of us pillion) braving the slightly rainy start to the day, before being blessed with sunshine for the rest of the two-hour ride to our eventual destination at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park on the South Downs.

We started out at the Departure Lounge and, after following the flowing route of the B3006 down to its junction with the A3, we soon left the main roads to journey through Liphook and beyond for a lovely, meandering ride through West Sussex and Hampshire. The well-planned route offered us the combination of some faster A roads, allowing us to make easier connections to the more appealing twisty country roads, pretty villages, and blissfully, significantly less traffic; excepting the odd horse and even a steam traction engine providing a dawdling distraction from our saddles!



Burton & Chingord Ponds, nr. Petworth



Bury Hill and the South Downs

Highlights passed en-route included, the attractive pub, The Three Moles at Selham with its totem pole feature in the car park, the brick and flint houses of the beautiful Downlands village of Slindon, before passing the clipped grasslands of the Glorious Goodwood race circuit, each interspersed by a diverse mix of rolling fields and woodlands.

Some riders took a nostalgic trip back to roads they had not visited for some time and others enjoyed the variety of landscape and highways offered on the

ride. Thanks to the local council for adding in the intermittent challenge of loose gravel 'new road layout' which had popped up since our last recce (!) but, overall, a pretty consistent and enjoyable ride.

Meeting up at the Park with Trish and Richard Evans, who had ridden there to meet us all, was a lovely surprise, and the generosity of the café in allowing us to use their external picnic tables also allowed for convivial chat over our picnic lunches.



Special thanks to Mike and Lesley who, on the day, agreed to be the back markers for the ride. Sorry you guys had picked up folding chairs for the occasion, thinking we would be on the grass at the Park as we had originally intended. They'll come in handy another time, we're sure, lol.

