

we are  
**cycling**  
UK

CTC Coventry - [www.coventryctc.org.uk](http://www.coventryctc.org.uk)

## CTC Coventry & CTC Rugby - Weekly Bulletin

**4th August 2021**

### **This week**

Alan sent me this report about the Long Ride on Sunday 1st August to Farthingstone in Northamptonshire:

*Nine of us set off in light rain on what was to be an interesting and challenging ride. The intention was to try out a slightly different format whereby the whole group would set off together at our 'normal' pace until a stop, and from that point all those who fancied riding at a brisker pace would complete the route together, and the remainder of the riders would continue on at the 'normal' pace.*

*As it turned out getting to a 'stop' proved problematic: at the 'Hidden Hut', near Grandborough the staff remained resolutely hidden away! ...so we soggily, but hopefully pedalled on to Staverton. Our hopes of sitting inside a nice warm, and hopefully dry, café were again dashed as the place was closed for an event! Huddled together in the car park we forced down whatever long forgotten comestibles we found secreted in the depths of our bike bags and then, more in hope than expectation, we pedalled on through the persistent drizzle to Farthingstone, to maybe be third time lucky?*

*As it turned out we arrived at the Kings Arms around 10 minutes before opening time ... when was the last time any of us actually queued up to get into a pub! A real old fashioned country pub was revealed as we walked into the DRY interior! The landlord found us a Games Room to ourselves which I think was wise. The amount of soggy lycra on display would have been too much for the gentile local villagers!*

*The drinks were good, the baguettes very much appreciated, and we even watched the sun come out through the windows. After a slow but restorative lunch we set off in two groups and completed the ride in the sunshine through the Northamptonshire and South Warwickshire countryside at the*

*pace that everyone could feel comfortable and enjoyable. The feedback seemed to be that everyone enjoyed the ride in this manner.*

*Andy Gilbert will be making some suggestions as to how we could potentially incorporate this format into our normal Long Rides. This is potentially an interesting development to evolve the scope of our rides offering to a wider set of our members.*

### **What next?**

The **100-km Centenary Challenge Ride** is only 5-weeks away and will take place on 12th September: it is the main cycling event of our Centenary Year. We are hoping that 60-riders will take part in small groups each with a leader and a backmarker, so you'll be looked after all day with no worries about navigating. Included in the price are refreshments at 16-mile intervals with a light lunch half way round, more complementary tea and coffee at the end, a souvenir enamelled lapel badge and a certificate of completion. Full details can be viewed on our website at <https://coventryctc.org.uk/100-km-centenary-challenge-ride>.

This is a formula we have used on many previous occasions and I we have always found that the enthusiasm of all the riders will carry you through the day, even if it's a bit further than you normally ride. The route goes into Northamptonshire in the east of our area and will take you along some delightful lanes and gated roads, so please give it a go and I know you will not be disappointed. Just ask me for an entry form by emailing me at [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk).

A couple of pleas for help: we really need someone to run **an assistance vehicle for the 100-km event**. We're not looking for mechanical, or first aid skills, but just the ability to be on stand-by to collect someone (and their bike) who is unable to complete the course due to, say, a mechanical problem that cannot be fixed beside the road. Perhaps one of the riders has a non-riding partner who would be prepared to help out for the day. To volunteer, or discuss this further please email me: [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk) - hopefully your services will not be required, but any fuel costs will be reimbursed. Also, we need some **help at the tea stop at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore** - Audrey Tinley will be running the tea stop, but needs a couple of helpers. Are you riding the event and have a non-cycling partner who would be able to help for a couple of hours in the afternoon? Please email me: [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk) to offer your services.

Also on the horizon is the **Centenary Dinner** to be held at Hearsall Golf Course on Friday 1st October. I was a bit too keen last week as we are not actually ready to accept bookings yet. I will let you know as soon as the booking system is open.



All the women's rides at the end of the Women's Festival of Cycling met at a picnic at Abbey Fields last Sunday.

### **Air Ambulance Collection**

The total collected so far for the Warwickshire Air Ambulance has now passed the £1400 mark. This has exceeded our expectations and we are delighted with the result, which includes the proceeds from the book sale at the BBQ and some other donations. There will be a formal presentation to the Air Ambulance at the Celebration Dinner in October and in the meantime we will continue to ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 from everyone on our rides.

## Rides this week

**Booking rides:** for the time being we are continuing to ask riders to contact the leader by the preceding Friday to reserve a place on their chosen ride. Please check on the **meeting point**, which may be different from what you have become used to.

### Thursday 5th August

**18.30hrs** Helen Tolley will lead a leisurely 10-mile ride (for men and women) from Coventry Transport Museum to Baginton (bring your own refreshments). Please email Helen: [women@coventryctc.org.uk](mailto:women@coventryctc.org.uk) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

### Friday 6th - Sunday 8th August

The Women's Tour to Oxfordshire will be led by Vicky Palethorpe - our best wishes are with you.

### Saturday 7th August

**08.30hrs** Helen Tolley will lead a 64-mile (100-km) trial ride of the 100-km Centenary Challenge Ride for anyone who wants to check out the route in advance. (There will also be another one on 29th August). Meet at 08.30hrs at the War Memorial Park Coat of Arms Bridge Road Car Park and bring your own refreshments - opportunities to stop along the way will be taken if possible. Please email Helen: [surffoxhelen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:surffoxhelen@yahoo.co.uk) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

### Sunday 8th August

**09.00hrs** Bob Tinley will lead an 80-mile ride from the WMP, Park & Ride facility to The Dog Lane Fishery, Napton for coffee, a picnic lunch at Shipston-on-Stour and tea at Wootton Wawen. Please email Bob: [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

**09.15hrs** Dave Hearn will lead a 30-mile ride from the WMP, Old Pavillion Café to The Harvester, Long Itchington. Please email Dave: [Dave@MargaretHearn.plus.com](mailto:Dave@MargaretHearn.plus.com) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

**09.30hrs** George Riches will lead a 42-mile ride from the WMP, Park & Ride Facility to Wootton Wawen. Please email George: [George.Riches@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:George.Riches@CoventryCTC.org.uk) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

### Tuesday 10th August

**10.15hrs** Nigel Hickman will lead a 30-mile from Granny Smith's Café, Smith's Garden Centre, Baginton, to Napton for lunch and return to Hunningham. Please email Nigel: [22tandn@gmail.com](mailto:22tandn@gmail.com) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

### Thursday 12th August

**18.30hrs** Helen Tolley will lead a 10-mile ride (men & women) from Leicester Row, CV1 4AL (street

parking is free after 18.00hrs) riding along the canal to Sutton Stop for a quick drink at The Greyhound Inn. Please email Helen: [Women@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Women@CoventryCTC.org.uk) to book your place and get full details of the ride.

## News

### HS2

The latest news can be viewed here: <https://hs2inwarwicks.commonplace.is/news>

The A425 near Southam is due to be re-opened soon. More information can be found here:

[https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/hs2inwarwicks/A425%20re\\_opening%20Notification%20July%202021%20Final%20AdeB.pdf](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/hs2inwarwicks/A425%20re_opening%20Notification%20July%202021%20Final%20AdeB.pdf)

**Solihull has been awarded £2 million to spend on road safety.** Read more about it here: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/council-receives-over-ps2m-spend-road-safety> and have your say on how it should be spent.

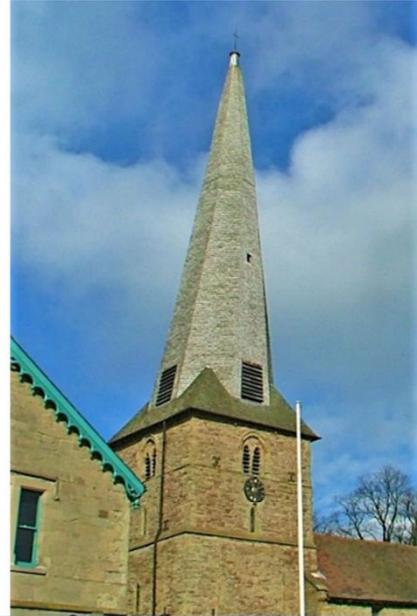
## Reminders

1. Enter the 100-km Centenary Ride. [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk)
2. Volunteer to run an assistance vehicle for the 100-km Centenary Ride. [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk)
3. Help run the afternoon tea stop on the 100-km Centenary Ride. [Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk)

## Where are we?

Here is the answer to last week's puzzle plus another teaser from Dave Hearn:

This crooked spire can be seen in the village of Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire



When King Edward 1st's beloved wife, Eleanor of Castile, died in Harby, Nottinghamshire her body was transported to Westminster Abbey. A tall and lavish cross was erected at each of the twelve overnight resting places. These became known as 'Eleanor Crosses'. Three remain more or less intact.

Question: Where can this Eleanor Cross be found?