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cycling
UK

CTC Coventry - CoventryCTC.org.uk

CTC Coventry & CTC Rugby - Weekly Bulletin

29th December 2021

This week

Libby sent this report on last Sunday's ride (26th December) - thank you:
"Thank you, Marina for getting us out on our bikes on boxing day. It was an interesting ride, avoiding the surface water and tsunamis created by passing cars. The ford on the way to Knowle was in full flow and at least a foot deep, Marina erred on the side of caution and rerouted.

The stop at Packwood was appreciated. It was warm enough to sit outside to consume mince pies and turkey sandwiches for those that had the foresight to pack them.

Another detour at Kenilworth Common where the cyclocross event was in full swing.

It makes a change for the problems not to be caused by HS2!!"

What next?

The **next Clubroom on Tuesday 4th January** will start at 2000hrs at the Friends Meeting House in Hill Street, Coventry when Dave Hearn will look back over our Centenary celebrations. [A program for the new year may be viewed by clicking here.](#) I know it can be hard to leave the fireside on a winter's evening, but Dave works hard to create selection of varied slide shows and it is always interesting to see what other Club members have been doing and often inspirational, so please join us at The Friends Meeting House next Tuesday evening.



26th December - The ford in Elvers Green lane, Barston.

Rides this week

Whatever ride you're on, please ensure that you have a set of working lights on your bike. Whilst we aim to finish our rides before lighting-up time, it is often sensible to show lights earlier in the day.

An online copy of our Rides Planning chart can be viewed in the 'Upcoming Rides' section of the website to help you with your own planning. [Here is a quick link to it](#). It should be understood that this is a work in progress document and will be subject to continuous editing.

Important:

With the current uncertainty about Covid it is essential that you make an email booking for rides of your choice. This will ensure that:

- you receive a copy of the route.
- you get details of any special arrangements for the ride.
- you can be informed if there are any last minute changes to the ride, for example cancellation due to the weather.

The guidelines from Cycling UK are on the website website which was updated on 23rd December.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/coronavirus-updated-guidance-individual-cyclists-and-cycling-groups>

The club is complying with this advice by continuing to provide rides on a booking basis only, and recording contact details of all participants.

We are asking you to please

- provide Ride leaders with your phone number.
- ensure you are free of covid symptoms before setting out on any of our rides.

- maintain an appropriate distance from others.
- bring a mask to comply with the guidance requested from any cafes/facilities you encounter on route including where you collect take aways or sit at tables.
- Avoid sharing water bottles, or equipment.

Saturday 1st January 2022

09.30hrs meet at War Memorial Park (WMP), Park & Ride facility. Martin Lee will lead a stamina building, low intensity, hilly, 30-mile ride to Hoar Park Café and return to WMP. Please email Martin, martinjacklee@yahoo.co.uk for full details and include your mobile phone number.

Sunday 2nd January 2022

- 09.15 meet at WMP. Bob Tinley will lead a **47-mile ride** to Manor Farm, Catthorpe and back to WMP. Please email Bob: Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk to join the ride and to receive full details.
- 09.15 meet at WMP. Marina Friend will lead a 20-mile ride to Meriden via Corley Moor with a picnic lunch on Meriden Green. Please email [Marina: marinafriend@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Marina:marinafriend@hotmail.co.uk) to join the ride and to receive full details.

Tuesday 4th January 2022

- 10.15 meet at Malt Kiln Farm, Stretton-under Fosse. Bob Tinley will lead a 22-mile ride to Draycote Water for lunch. The route terminates at Stretton-on-Dunsmore. Please email Bob: Chairman@CoventryCTC.org.uk to join the ride and to receive full details.

Tours Next Year

Nigel and Terry are offering a 3 day tour, from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd April 2022, cycling out from and back to Coventry, with a night at each of the **Lichfield and Loughborough** Premier Inns.

Each day will be around 40-45 miles, including some good off-road cycle tracks. Please e-mail: Nigel + Terry 22tandn@gmail.com for more details. Nigel would like to remind you that the tour would be ideal for people who have not toured before as it relatively short and local.

It can also be viewed on our 2022 Tour Programme Page: <https://coventryctc.org.uk/go->

[touring](https://coventryctc.org.uk/staffordshire-leicestershire-triangle-tour-itinerary) and an Itinerary page can be viewed at: <https://coventryctc.org.uk/staffordshire-leicestershire-triangle-tour-itinerary>

Mike Thomas is leading a holiday to **Mallorca**. This is something of a new venture for us based on a Jet2 package to Port Pollenca in the north of the island. Rides, walks and sightseeing will be arranged, or you can relax by the pool at the newly refurbished Park Hotel. The start date is Thursday April 21st, but members can be flexible when they join. More information can be found at <https://coventryctc.org.uk/mallorca-2022-tour-information>. Bookings are now open for this tour and it should be noted that Jet2 have a good refund policy should this holiday be cancelled because of Covid restrictions. 12 members have already booked, and some have taken advantage of occasional Jet2 promotional discounts. To take advantage of these discounts its best to book by phoning 0800 408 0778. Call Mike before booking on 02476 692792 or email mike999thomas@gmail.com for any updates he has, and email him for full details of the trip.

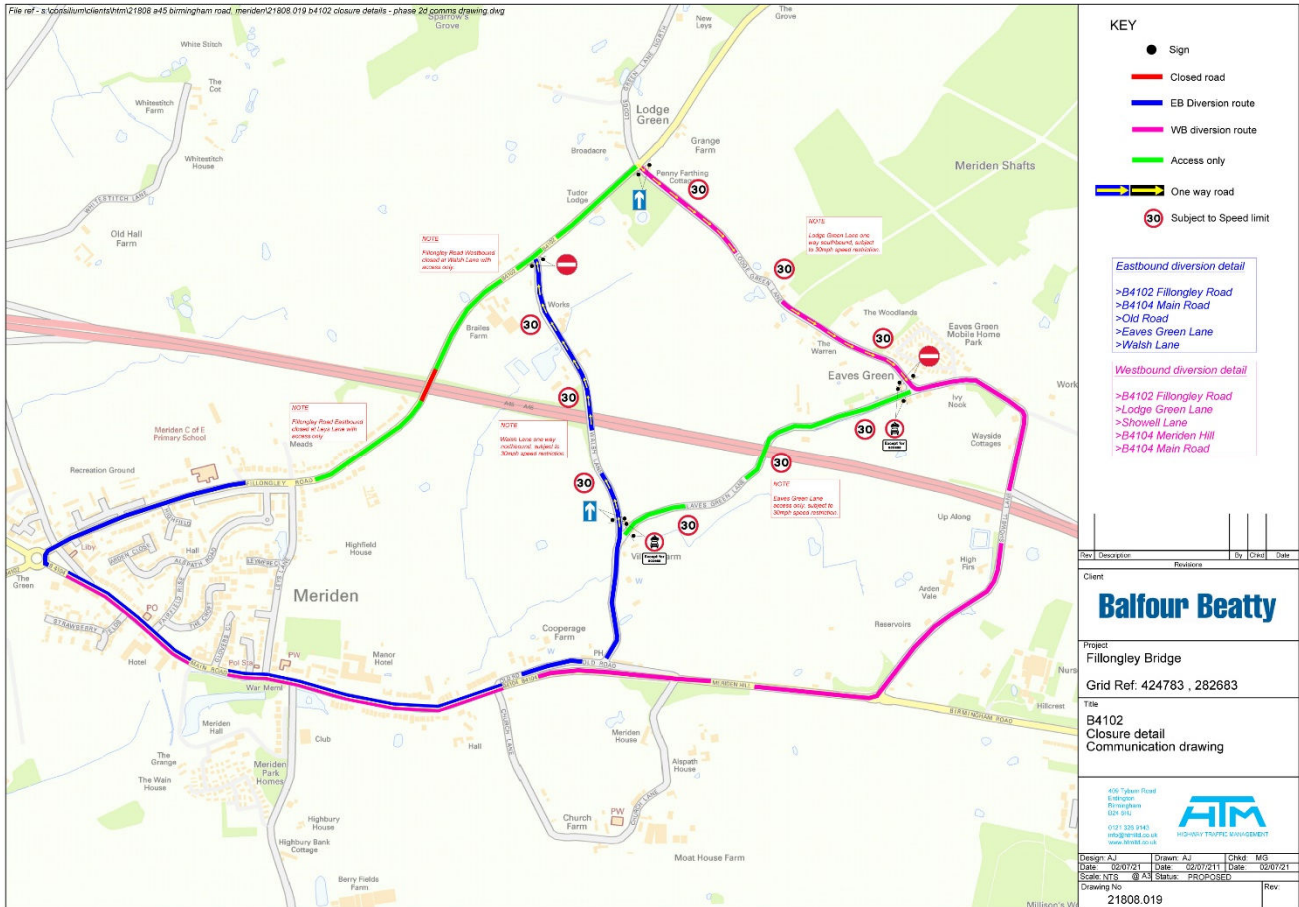
Alan Jelley is leading a **Peak District Trails Weekend** based on Hartington Youth Hostel on the weekend of 28-29 May 2022. This tour is now fully booked.

Paul Whateley is leading a tour to **The Isle of Wight in June**. Please see <https://coventryctc.org.uk/isle-of-wight-single-centre-tour-30th-june-to-4th-july-prospectus> for more details.

Vicky Palethorpe is leading a **Womens Tour to Cannock 23th-25th July**. Please see <https://coventryctc.org.uk/go-touring> for more details.

Alan Jelley is leading an **Off-road Tour to The New Forest 7th-10th October**. Please see <https://coventryctc.org.uk/go-touring> for more details.

Fillongley road closure - this is important as many of these road closures will affect our rides for the next 9-months.



The **B4102 Fillongley Road bridge** over the A45 is having its deck reconstructed. The date for the closure of the B4102 and many public rights of way in the vicinity is currently planned for November 2021 and will run until August 2022.

<https://www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk/fillongley-road-bridge-updates/>

HS2

The latest news can be viewed here: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-warwickshire/>. Also, you can subscribe for updates at <https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/>

Full closure of a small section of the **Kinton Road, Southam** 24 hours a day from Wednesday 19 January to Monday 31 January 2022 with a diversion in place. <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/hs2-works-notification-temporary-closure-kinton-road-southam/>

On Tuesday 4 January 2022, **Truggist Lane** will be fully closed from 8.00am until 6.00pm.
<https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/notice-of-temporary-closure-of-truggist-lane/>

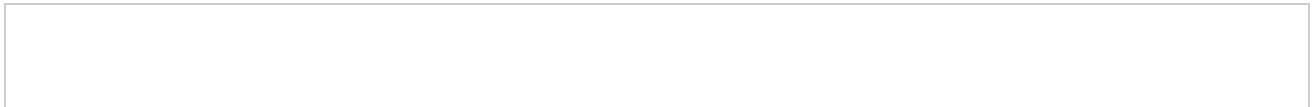
From Monday 17 - Friday 21 January 2022 **Lavender Hall Lane** will be closed: <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/notice-of-temporary-closure-of-lavender-hall-lane/>

Blind Lane will be closed on 7 January 2022

Cryfield Grange Road will be closed on 10 January 2022

Both closures will be in place between 8am and 6pm. <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/notice-of-traffic-management-blind-lane-and-cryfield-grange-road-2/>

Temporary daytime road closure Monday 10th January until Friday 28th January 2022 between 09:30am and 3:30pm on **Diddington Lane, Hampton-in-Arden** a closure will be in place on weekdays from Monday 10th January until Friday 28th January 2022 between 09:30am and 3:30pm. <https://www.hs2.org.uk/work-items/traffic-management-on-diddington-lane/>



Where are we?

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



The pub sign is in Cerne Abbas and the delightful village is Milton Abbas.



Trophies for competitions come in all shapes and sizes and cycling is no exception. The one featured is unique and very appropriate as there are numerous sections of cobblestones, or pavé on the route.

1. For which annual 'monument' (one day classic) is this trophy awarded?
2. This year saw the first such women's event, which British rider won?

GPS hints - episode 12 Navigating with a mobile phone and Komoot.

Using a smartphone for navigation – by Sak Wathanasin.

The following notes might be useful if, like me, you baulk at buying a dedicated Satnav device when you already have a phone with many times the computing power available to the Apollo astronauts. My experience uses Apple kit (Macs/iPhones/iPads), but the navigation apps are available for

Android-based devices and what follows will largely apply to them as well.

The biggest problem with using a navigation app on a phone is it eats **battery power** like there's no tomorrow. When my phone was new, I was able to get a little under 4-hours before the battery died, but after a couple of years, this has dropped to under two.

1. A relatively inexpensive (compared to the phone) external battery pack in my rear rack bag mostly solved this problem for me, at least for day rides.
2. On a tour, you'd have to recharge the battery pack every night, which could be an issue.

Rain is the other big problem: newer phones are at least IP67 compliant and can survive most rainstorms, especially if you have a cover. The problem is that water can seep in via the charging port after half an hour or so in a downpour when the battery pack is connected. The phone will report that it has detected liquid in the port and go into a sulk. At that point, the only thing I can do is disconnect the external battery and hope that the rain stops before the phone battery dies. Maybe wireless charging is the answer.

The advantages are:

1. A phone has a larger colour display than a dedicated GPS, so it's easier to follow a route when bouncing around on our less-than-smooth road surfaces.
2. A phone has a much faster CPU with a user interface that you already know.
3. There is one less item to carry.

Komoot – by Sak Wathanasin

The main app I use is Komoot. It has a website used to plan routes (including importing GPX files, see below), and an app on the phone that you use for navigating during your ride. Although you can plan routes using the phone app, it is much easier to use a desktop computer with a much larger screen.

Get started by going to <https://www.komoot.com> using your favourite browser and create a new account if you don't have one. It's free to sign up and you get access to one free map of your region (roughly a county), which will cover our short rides. You can then buy additional regional licences for £4 each, or bundles (e.g. Midlands) for £9 or the world for £30. You only pay once, which can make this a cheaper option than subscription-based services.

Buying a map pack gives:

1. Voice-navigation.
2. The ability to download maps for offline use on your phone.
3. Exporting your route to GPS devices.
4. There's also a "premium" mode (annual subscription) with additional features that I haven't needed to use so far.

Having logged in to the website you can:

1. Import a GPX file by clicking on the "+", or...
2. Create a new route by clicking on "Route Planner". Choose "Bike Touring" for the sport; enter start and destination points; select "round trip" and it will plot a route for you.

Komoot uses the cycle-track data in OpenStreet Maps (routable mapping as previously discussed) and will use cycle-paths where it can. You can then edit the proposed route by simply clicking a point on the route and dragging it to location you want it to pass through.

Changing a route with Komoot is very easy, and the simplest of all the different apps that I have tried so far. Each time you change the route, it will try to plot the best possible route through your selected point using any cycle-paths that it knows about. You can force it to use specific paths and if you want to force it to use a path that it doesn't know about, click to add an additional point, uncheck the "Follow ways" option, and it will add a straight line to the next point. Add as many of these as you need.

When you are happy with the route, save it and it will appear as one of your "planned tours". Routes are private by default, but you can make them public and share them simply by sending a link to others (they don't need an account), or you can export as a GPX file for sending to others. If you decide to import a GPX route that someone has sent you, you will be asked whether you want to use it as a basis for a new route or if you simply want to save it as a record of a completed ride.

1. To use it as the basis for a new route you will be guided through the process.
2. During the import, if it detects a segment that it does not recognize as a rideable path (a bit of off-road, say), it will ask you whether it should retain the original path or replace it.
3. Then you just need to give the route a name, save it, and it will appear in your list of planned tours.

The Komoot website has **an extensive set of guides and help pages** that will show you how to use the various features.

Navigating with Komoot on the phone

Now that we have some routes to follow, how do we use them?

1. First, download and install the Komoot app on your phone from the Apple or Google app stores.
2. Launch the app and login using the same credentials as on the website (it should offer to save your credentials, so you never have to enter the password again).
3. Now tap on "Profile" then under "Tours" tap on "Planned" and pick the route you want to follow.
4. You will now be shown information on the route - distance, estimated time to complete and lots more.
5. You will also get a useful option to store the map data on the phone, so you don't need to be connected to the Komoot server while on the road.

Tap the "Start navigation" button to begin the ride.

1. If you are not at the start point, it will offer to adjust the route to take you to the start.
2. Tap the "arrow" icon to centre the map at your current location and start pedalling.
3. Komoot has turn-by-turn navigation though sometimes it gets confused about which way you're pointing and will tell you to turn left instead of right (or vice versa), so keep checking the map display instead of relying on its directions. [This might be caused by spurious points in the .gpx file, which you can tidy up using Route Converter as described in section 10 in an earlier instalment.]

The map display shows the planned route in blue with your progress alongside it in red. If you deviate from the planned route, intentionally or otherwise, it will show you the shortest path to the planned route with a dashed line but doesn't annoy you with a flurry of alerts.

As with all mapping apps, you can adjust the scale by zooming in or out, though I have found that when it needs to refresh the display, it goes back to its default scale, which can be annoying.

There is a "controls" button that lets you pause or finish the ride, and it also allows you to turn on

voice navigation (not that useful on a bike).

It records the route that you have actually ridden and at the end, you can save this in “Completed tours”.

Although Komoot has its foibles, it does the job, and it seems to be actively maintained so that new versions of the app are released regularly.

My main complaint with it is that it doesn't have a “night mode”, so that the glare from the display in the dark makes it pretty well unusable and you're much better off with Google Maps or similar.