

In June 2023 we had a 3 day 'Chip and Vale' tour - Chipping Norton and Evesham Vale. Starting from Coventry to Chipping Norton with an overnight stay in a Premier Inn, then onwards to Evesham with another overnight stay, also at a Premier Inn, before continuing back to Coventry. Each day saw us cycling 35-40 steady miles with stops for refreshments and sight seeings.

Our first stop was Chedham's Yard, tucked away in a quiet corner of Wellesbourne. What a gem. There's a working forge and a wheelwright workshop crammed with tools. Our expert guides explained the various processes and made the story of the Chedham family come to life. After re-fuelling at The Garden Shed cafe we headed off along rolling country lanes into the Cotswolds. A perfectly timed stop for drinks and a snack at the Still House cafe powered us up the main climb of the day to the Rollright Stones. We took our time wandering around these neolithic and bronze age monuments, in the late afternoon sun. There was just enough energy left for the final leg into the old Oxfordshire market town of Chipping Norton, completing day 1 of our tour.



Day 2 began with a leisurely breakfast at a local cafe and set the tone for the rest of the day. Easy cycling through picturesque Cotswold scenery, with a brief snack stop in Chipping Camden before climbing Dover's Hill and detouring into Broadway for lunch.

We arrived in Evesham in good time to take in the Town History Trail, dating back to medieval times. On arrival at our hotel, we settled for a late in-house evening meal.



Day 3 took us along some of the pretty Worcestershire Spring Blossom Trail. No blossoms out but still glorious countryside and views. Elevenses were had at Willi's coffee shop in Studley and lunch at the quirky Ye Olde Ponde Cafe at Liveridge Hill. Familiar Warwickshire lanes appeared soon after this, as we made our way back into Coventry feeling slightly tired and very chilled out.



On November 7th 2023 there will be a presentation with full details and pictures of the tour. Do come along and get inspired to join next year's tour which we are in the process of planning for June 2024 in the Rutland area.