

REPORT ON THE 38TH MOORS RUN - 2022

This year's run took place on the 17th of July the day that the UK had its highest recorded temperatures, but with a constant breeze and whilst on the move it was very pleasant. Also it seemed that the TV had done a good job of frightening most motorists off the roads!

There was an excellent turnout of ten bikes with seven starting from Morrison's car park at 8am and three more joining us at the Ilminster round about just up the A303. This is an ideal number, as with headlights on I can keep tabs via my mirrors on every ones progress.

This run first took place four months after the club was formed in 1984 and was envisaged as "a medium paced, long run with stops for food, and would include various riding surfaces from motorways to single track country lanes". That format was retained again this year, except in recent years I have reduced the mileage from over 300 to around 200 miles.

The A303 joined the M5 and we kept right off onto the 'Devon Express Way' (A38) to the breakfast stop at Halden Forest Diner. After an hour of good humour at the size of portions ordered by those supposedly on diets, we set off for the next stop at Kelly Mine on the A382 towards Morton Hampstead.



This micaceous haematite mine (1797 to 1951) was resurrected in the early 1980s by volunteers and they have created a slice of Dartmoor history well worth a trip to see on most Sundays in the summer. Our group spent two most interesting hours with a guide who explained that the resulting fine dry grey powder was used to create paint for iron and steel work, including the original base paint for Sydney Harbour Bridge!



The detailed process of digging & blasting out the rough ore, tilt hammering it into a fine powder and washing it, using only the power of dynamite and a stream, was fascinating. There was no electricity on the site even in 1951 when it closed due mainly to much cheaper imports.



We remounted and continued via Morton Hampstead towards Princetown as far as the Warren Inn where a leisurely lunch was taken. Here again parking was easy as visitors were clearly less than on a normal summer Sunday.

Next we headed north down off Dartmoor via deserted, but sometimes tight and badly pitted lanes, to our fuel stop up on Widdon Down after covering some 90 miles in total. We continued in a north easterly direction across country via South Molton up onto Exmoor and so to Simonsbath; staying on a northerly bearing and more deep country lanes, we finally reached our tea stop. This consisted of scones, jam and thick clotted cream by the river at Malmsmead at the entrance to the Doone Valley.

As we left this our last stop, we travelled again via a single track road over Robber's Bridge and out onto the A39, A358 & A303, arriving back at our homes at around 6.30pm. We had spent only six of the 10.5 hours in the saddle, with the rest being food and relaxation.....Clive. PS; thanks to Mike Board for the pics.

