

YORK BIRTHDAY RIDES

More than 400 CTC members attended the 2014 CTC Birthday Rides at Askham Bryan College on the outskirts of York from 13-19 August. York Wednesday Wheelers, and in particular **Mick Lovett** and **Dave Bean**, did an excellent job in creating 20 self-led rides, while **John Mawson** from Chester made the routes available as GPS tracklogs.



FIVE ROUTES each of A, B, C and D categories – the letters denote distances, A being longest – headed out from York in all directions. They ranged from short loops down the York-Selby cyclepath, whose Solar System Route plots the relative distance between planets with scale models, through to long rides into the North York Moors, out to Pateley Bridge, or to Hull and back. 'It's the rides that people come for,' organiser Peter Mathison said.

The week was informal, with cyclists choosing which routes to do and whom to ride with each day. As well as the rides, there were two coach trips – one to Richmond, one to Grosmont and Whitby – and entertainment each evening. Music was provided by: Joan plus Two (Thursday); rockabilly band Rockin' Deke Rivers and the Jitters (Friday); and Shrewsbury choir Of One Accord (Saturday). There was a quiz on Sunday evening, while Monday featured Blackbeard's Tea Party and a ceilidh. Every evening had a film showing as an alternative.

All guests stayed at Askham Bryan College, either in study-bedrooms vacated by students, or camping. Guests ranged from Birthday Rides veterans such as Margaret Tate from Maidstone, who has



been coming to the event since it began in 1978 to celebrate CTC's centenary, to Oscar and Toby Futter (aged 10 and 8) from Norfolk, who were attending with their parents; the boys (right) said they enjoyed the Solar System Route best. ●



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