**CYCLING UK LOUTH’S ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

It’s been another busy and rewarding 12 months for Cycling UK Louth with average numbers attending the rides typically four to six and on occasion we’ve had attendances of nine. Sadly, we no longer have the company of Mike Gray, Reg Bagshaw and more recently John Ambler has hung up his bicycle clips for the time being but we are delighted to have had regular appearances from new members Sven Livesey, Martin Wood and Steve Croton on our Sunday and Wednesday rides.

The club has two cups which we award annually and we were delighted to present John Weeks with the ‘John Ambler Louth Cup’ on November 5th 2023 at the Landmark Café. This was in recognition for all of his attendances, riding into Louth from Wood Enderby. This occasion was also Tim Newbery’s birthday, he was given a surprise presentation of a signed card and a few notes of the realm which paid for a round of drinks for all. Later in April 2024, following a poll by Paul Linder, Tim Newbery was awarded ‘The Effort Cup’ at our annual lunch at Sutton on Sea, first awarded to Peter Launchbury in 1987 shortly after the club had re-formed.

Rides have included familiar destinations but we’ve also returned to those we haven’t been to for years along with some venues. Always good to try something different and Louth’s blessed with a wealth of varied landscape and history.

In May 2023 we organised a ride as part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival, promoting all that our organisation has to offer. Riders attended the York Rally in June 2023 with a long ride to Gibraltar Point in July 2023. Our annual Picnic at Snipe Dales had to be postponed to August but we had the added bonus of being able to listen to ‘The Right Notes’ the Alford and Skegness Ukulele Band, starring Steve Croton. We enjoyed a ride to East Kirkby Aviation Heritage Centre in September 2023, provided a contingent for the DS Smith Charity Ride in September 2023 with a return to Baumber Walled Gardens and Dogdyke in October 2023. Following on from Christmas and New Year rides and celebrations, in 2024 we visited a little know and rather fine nature reserve at Farlesthorpe.

Tim Newbery, Alan Hockham, Paul Linder, Rob Cook, John Ambler and Steve Croton enjoyed fine weather for our Mid-Summer Ride to Boston in June 2023, whilst weather was mixed for our ride to Sandringham via Boston in July 2023. Paul had purchased a rather fine Robert Saunders ‘Spacepacker’ tent and he was to join Rob Cook and Tim Newbery on this year’s venture to Norfolk. It was left to Tim Newbery and Rob Cook to continue the camping season with an Autumn trip to Hickling Broads, Norfolk in September 2023 and a Spring Camp at Wing Hall, Rutland in April 2024 which proved unseasonably cold.

We look forward to more adventures in 2024 with a ride and overnight stop at Beverley in May and hopefully a ride all the way over to Stamford later in August. A full and varied Sunday and Wednesday programme will also continue throughout.

Tim Newbery

Cycling UK Louth