

New Forest Weekend Sept17th and 18th 2011

The Wessex group welcomed Ian and Lisa Warren, Malcolm and Grace Gammon, David and Janet Jones and Stuart and Jackie Hibbert from the West Country group and Greg and Margaret Silcock from the West Yorkshire group to the New Forest for a weekend of rides led by John and Jane Taylor. Wind and heavy showers were forecast and although this was correct we were fortunate in just missing the worst of the rain all weekend.

On Saturday we set off with a group of 8 tandems and were joined at our coffee stop by John and Sue Sutton who had to leave us at lunch. The ride took us out through Beaulieu and along the coast through Lymington to Milford on Sea where we stopped for lunch overlooking the Isle of Wight. The return leg was inland and across the forest heathland with the wind behind us, an unscheduled stop was made at The Turfcutters Arms where we sat in the sunny garden until a heavy shower moved us indoors by the open fire. Back at our start point we had covered about 43 miles.

The Sunday ride was a group of 10 tandems, we rode down to the coast at Calshot where several members had a look at the Velodrome in the old Sunderland Hanger before we rode on round the coast to Lepe beach where we had coffee in the tea rooms. Riding inland we passed through Beaulieu Road Station and on to Lyndhurst where we split up and had our lunches in various places such as pubs and bus shelters. It was then the ride back to the leader's house for tea and cake, a distance of about 37 miles.

A most enjoyable weekend was had by one and all.

