

Oct 2011 Wessex ride report

Peter Hawker led our late October ride from Winchester on his solo, as Anne was on sick leave after a recent toe operation. Three tandems accompanied him, and among them we were delighted to have senior members Alan and Audrey Joy, who used their new power-assist to ensure that they and their tandem trike were part of the pack all the way round. Peter took us on a very rural 38 mile undulating route around the byways of central Hampshire on a mild but moist day, but the early autumn colour was compensation enough. It was a two-pub day, the first at Totford for coffee and the second for lunch. The Three _Orsesh_es (sic) at Bighton was so welcoming that they allowed us to eat our picnic inside the pub and out of the mizzle. En route we visited an ancient little church at Upper Wield, with the remnants of wall paintings and a gallery, and a fine alabaster memorial to Sir William Wallop and his third wife. He found time to be a High Sheriff of Hampshire and Mayor of Southampton three times too. The area north of Winchester is pretty and we all felt that we enjoyed a great day out.

