



# Swindon CTC Lardy Tea 2009



Lardy Run Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 2009

Sunday 10-05 Cricklade town hall ,where are all my merry men and women , only two turned up apart from myself ,but I always have Maid Marion to support me .[ my good lady Janet].

The weather was damp and overcast but it did not dampen our spirits as Jonathan he is always an inspiration and positive.

Leaving at 10-15 who do you think meet us on the way out of Cricklade ! Ben, after much discussion about start time, he went back to Cricklade to see if there were any late arrivals, we waited about 10 mins he returned we preceded up left hand lane to Purton Stoke and village hall, did I hear the door open with Eric coming to greet us ? [many previous teas here]. Crossing straight over through village left to Bentham, all the while Ben ringing Stuart and Amanda, putting them in the picture of where we were, [if they really wanted to know , it being damp and it beginning to drizzle], anyway the intrepid four continued along Mops Lane across level crossing then up the gentle climb up to Pavenhill passing a dwelling that had been converted from a chapel. [It was called half way house] it brought a smile to my face.]

By now it was drizzling hard, I noticed an old waterproof on a gate, I suggested Ben to use it, as he was not wearing a waterproof he declined, I had caped up by now the others donning waterproof attire. At Pavenhill Ben purchased food as he had not eaten since Saturday, plus I must add 6 bars of soap as he said they were a bargain!

Descending Pavenhill cape flapping we bared right into track at Battlelake through the woods in all there autumn glory right onto busy B4696 across traffic lights rain by now quite heavy but did not dampen our spirits, right into Ashton Keynes along Happy Land taking the Cerney Wick Rd on meandering lanes to arrive at the Fisherman's Café on the Spine rd.

We have partaken of there meals before so Johnathan and Ben enjoyed a cooked lunch ,Jan and settled for a toasted tea cake [us poor pensioners]. After the refreshments Jan did not wish to curtail the young bucks testosterone ,she decided to see her mother at Cricklade ,there fore upon reaching the A4219 she turned right we 3 turned left onto the lanes to Drifffield, Ampney Crucis ,Barnsley,Coln Rogers ,thence to follow the Coln valley along to Bibury. I think this village should be called little Japan ,as it seems to be populated by Japanese when ever I call, by now we had got the bit between our teeth so ever onwards and upwards and soaking up the miles instead of the rain as by now the sun had appeared. Into Coln St Aldwyne ,Eastleach,Southrop came and went,upon reaching Fairford by now we had dropped Ben,when he did eventually catch us up,he said he had been picking fruit from hedgerow, [he had not booked a teas].Explains all !

Through Fairford passing Airfield main gate no action here today, right into the hamlet of Welford , skirting airfield, Kempsford, straight on Drifffield, a place I had never been before, [one never stops learning], right onto lorry rate run into Cricklade to arrive about 4-15 with a total mileage of about 60 miles from home, I did not wish to short change anyone!, no complaints from the riders as we had seen the Cotswold in all it's full autumn splendour.

If you feel it was too ambitious for you. The distance and ride was arranged according to participants and weather on the day, so hope to see you next year. Robin.

Just a little note to say thanks to mike Blundell and Gordon Taylor for putting on the event . And a big thank you goes to the WI for putting on the tea, and can I ask Bruce to cut his beard Next year as it was like kissing a wire brush. And thanks got to the merry man for leading the ride. Tim.