

Alfriston Cycle Weekend – The “Big Sausage” weekend

Nandesh, Robin, Lewis, Aaron, Joel, Matthew, Kieran and Devash joined Alan, Ivor, Ash and David for a weekend’s cycling at Alfriston – a short distance from Lewes. We picked up Robin on the way down to the youth hostel, but the drive was (for a Friday evening) really good!

Arriving at the hostel, we had hotdogs in rolls, whilst Alan went through the route with the Scouts, making sure that they knew the route (as they would be navigating)

Saturday morning we had breakfast in the Youth hostel, made the sandwiches before heading outside to check the bikes before we set off. Alan made sure that all the boys were ready and we set off for the Downs. The hill to get up onto the Downs was quite steep – and with the exception of Alan we all pushed our bikes at some point. However, the hill was to be a small challenge – the wind on the top was very gusty, making headway even more challenging – but we headed across to the car park where we stopped for lunch.

We decided that rather than continue on the route we would head down to the coast early – and this meant we were quickly out of the wind... until we got to the coast! We had a short break by the sea where the waves were quite fierce – and then carried on the route. Whilst the winds had been strong, we were quite fortunate that we hadn’t suffered more than a very light drizzle and only for a few minutes.

We got back to the hostel at a reasonable time... but because the hostel was closed on our return we decided to make use of the time by investing Devash. Ash had brought the 8th Harrow flag with him, so retrieved the flag from his car and put it into his pannier. When we got to the site that we were to invest Devash (about 2 minutes down the track) he had forgotten that he had the flag sticking out of the bag...

After dinner, we set about fixing the three inner tubes that had received punctures during the days cycling, then let the boys relax – noting that they would have an hour’s less sleep that evening as the clock’s would move forward.

The next morning we could see that it had been raining – but luckily it had cleared up before we set off. A similar distance cycle, we again had to shorten the route because the ground was very wet – and very muddy. Matthew had slipped over, Ivor had slipped over – and headway up hills was not possible, as we just couldn’t get any grip. So the route was shortened – but this time it meant a little more roadwork than we would have liked. However, we had lunch by the Seven Sisters country park – a fun downhill bit of road where we could get a little speed up. One Scout was having problems as his pedalling became faster and faster – “Change up” we advised, only to be told “No – the road sign said ‘keep in low gear!’” After lunch we returned to the hostel, where we loaded up and headed home – via a short detour to see the Long Man of Wilmington.

P.S. Why the “Big Sausage”? Well, with sausages for supper on Friday, sausages for breakfast both Saturday AND Sunday – and sausages Saturday evening as well – why not?