



HEADSET

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT CTC MAGAZINE



ISSUE 21
APRIL TO
OCTOBER 2009



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WELCOME to *Headset*, the magazine of Huddersfield and District CTC – a local group of the national cyclists' organisation (Cyclists' Touring Club). In these pages you will find articles about what we've been getting up to lately, along with listings of what we'll be getting up to in the future. This magazine is published electronically twice a year, and in between we put out occasional newsletters when we want to let you know about other things we've thought of to do. If you want to make sure you receive all this send your email address to the editor Kevan Shuttleworth, details below. If you have no email address and need a paper copy, let us know.

Some of our rides are specifically intended for beginners, but newcomers are welcome on all of our rides. Details can be found in the centre pages of this magazine. You do not have to be a member of CTC to join in our activities, although you are encouraged to join the Club after coming on a number rides with us.

For your own safety we recommend that you ensure your bicycle is in good working order and carry lights in case you end up out after dark.

If you want any further information visit www.huddersfieldctc.org.uk or contact any of us listed below.

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Cover picture: A Sunday ride at Roughlee

Published by the Huddersfield Section of the Cyclists' Touring Club.

EDITORIAL

Thanks to Dave Robinson for the epic second instalment of his tale of tandem touring in Germany. The article takes up much of the second half of this magazine.

The rest of the magazine seems to be very largely devoted to lists and descriptions of the ever-increasing variety of rides and events we have on offer. Alongside the traditional club rides and challenge rides we have plenty of beginner events designed to get new cyclists out on their bikes.

Keep your eye on our website at www.huddersfield.co.uk. Our new webmaster Tim has enabled us to post much more news and detailed information about upcoming events on there.

We also have an email group through which we can send you reminders and extra info, as well as a pdf of this magazine. If you've received this magazine by that route, then you already know you're in the group. If not, and you want to join it, send your email address to me at shuttyk@aol.com, and you shall be welcomed into our electronic fold.

One other event I would mention is the Brian Robinson challenge ride on 26th April. Brian is of course one of Britain's greatest ever cyclists, and the first Briton to win a stage of the Tour de France. You can enter the ride online, but I won't bother giving you the website address which is rather long and complicated. It's easier to google brian robinson challenge ride and you'll get straight to it.

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THE SEC'S BIT

Well, here we go again, with the main cycling season just around the corner. Peter Ralph has been getting us fit by dragging us through hailstorms to Askern and up the Strines hills to Hathersage already so we should be well prepared for the extremely full and tempting rides programme on offer in this edition.

Peter's award scheme is a brilliant innovation which really gives everyone something to aim at : a definite personal achievement may be realised by continuing to turn out regularly and by gaining an award without overwhelming exertion. So. We can enjoy ourselves and collect an award. Great!

On the subject of awards, there are a couple to mention. Denise Evans has just won the CTC National DATC award as the best female veteran rider over the year. Kevan Shuttleworth has added to his achievements by winning a Kirklees Award for Voluntary Work for all the work he does in our community, and with particular emphasis on cycling as he was nominated by Huddersfield and District CTC. Well done to you both.

I would like to recommend Geoff Childs' Viaducts Ride (May 3rd) which a few of us have already ridden with him. It is a superb explanation of how Huddersfield and Barnsley got their railways, and of who built them. We start at Huddersfield Parish Church and finish at Locke Park, Barnsley. At the start of National Bike Week on June 14th an event is being held at Dewsbury Marina in conjunction with the reopening of the café there. We are riding out and there will be stalls, rides for families, refreshments, and information about outdoor activities in Kirklees.

Our Easy Riders group continues to prosper, with a good mix of regular and new riders. Please note the annual full day ride on July 4th from Kirkburton which will be steadily paced and be mainly off-road. Also, on June 16th There is an additional Supper Ride so please come along and enjoy the ride and the conversation (and the food).

Finally, I just want to highlight our next social 'do' at the Galpharm. This occurs on September 11th when Maree Hearsam will present a Chinese evening, at which she will inform us about her Chinese cycling experience. Chinese food will be available and tickets are obtainable from John Gleadow.

Sorry to go on for so long but there is so much. Just hope your appetite has been whetted.

See you on the road.

Ken Roberts

VIEW FROM THE END OF THE TABLE

The thoughts of chairman John Radford

I always know when it's the Ride Out Lunch and we meet riders from all over West Yorkshire at Addingham that Spring is here, and the Summer season is to follow with its club runs interspersed with events that add a change of scenery and give an added interest.

2009 is a milestone in the history of Huddersfield and District CTC, it's our first year on our own. Do not forget to use our new title on all CTC National Office documents and those of other organisations so they know who your club is and we get the recognition.

To add to our rebranding we have produced a new Huddersfield and District Jersey that shows all who we are and where we come from.

Where are we going ?

Your Committee with Ken and Pete's guidance have put a rides list together and events are planned, there are old favourites plus new ventures, Pete's holiday for instance.

We are to go to Meltham to help with the Huddersfield Examiner Charity Challenge. Last year we helped raise over £36,000 for 63 local charities and this year we have already had a block booking of 100 riders from the NSPCC to ride the 22 mile ride, whatever cash is raised the HSBC will add twice the amount!

The Sheffield area will see us helping at the Phil and Friends Rides helping raise money for the CTC Cyclists' Defence Fund.

I could do with volunteers for both these events please.

Easter will see Team Huddersfield leave Meltham starting an Easter Arrow to York. This is an early season audax challenge of at least 360km (224miles) to be covered in 24 hrs. 16 teams entered last year, only 5 finished due to the weather. Huddersfield completed of course, frozen, tired out (polite), and of the opinion never again, that's cyclists for you. This years team Kev, Alan, Dave, Ian and me.

A different route of communication: Headset is available electronically thanks to Kev, please use it if you can it will save us cash, and trees; Tim has done a great job on the web site. Have a look, it gives lots of info and is being developed all the time.

Adrian Midgley stops to refuel on the last leg of the Chirk 200k Audax. This was Adrian's first 200 on fixed gear. Congratulations.



COMMITTEE NEWS

John Radford

Your Committee have recently debated a couple of items you need to be aware of.

Firstly there have been several comments made from riders old and new about start times: they dislike standing around 'till 15 minutes or more after the published start time, getting cold and some feel wasting time. It was also felt that this could be an uncomfortable time for new people who did not know enough riders to socialise with (lesson) and chat to. The thinking is we do start the runs/events at the published times, the hint is if you want to chat first get there early.

The other item discussed was when club runs end. It was decided when a rider leaves the group in a given circumstance, this will be discussed at starts, what came out of this was that Committee Members will all carry the Insurance Accident Report Form as supplied by National Office, this will allow details to be taken if there is an accident when groups split off from Leaders on the way home for example. It is important Leaders are informed when a rider leaves a group.

OBITUARY : ERIC BIDDULPH

Ken Roberts

Most readers will be aware of the sad passing of Eric Biddulph on December 10th as he was cycling up New Hey Road on his way back from an Autumn Tints ride to Langsett.

Mary and Eric have been CTC members for many years and local cyclists will remember his pleas for cycling accessories to take over to Malawi where Eric had had such an influence on that nation's cycling. Indeed, Eric had set up Malawi's first national cycling team which went on to compete in the 1972 Olympic Games at Munich. The story of this experience and of the 13,000 mile three month journey back home are well documented in Eric's autobiography "The First Seventy Years".

RIDES AND EVENTS 2009

Pages 9 to 12 contain the basic listings of events for the summer season. For simplicity and ease of viewing this table is necessarily short on detail, so you should consult pages 13 and 14 for further details of meeting points and organisers. Our website at www.huddersfieldctc.org.uk also carries more detailed news of upcoming events.

RIDES AND EVENTS 2008

The table is colour-coded to give an idea of the types of rides, though some events could be placed in more than one category. The colour codes are explained below.

Easy Riders

These rides, promoted in association with Kiklees Council, are on the first Saturday of each month for a 2 or 3 hour leisurely ride. The idea is to encourage people who are new to cycling or who do not feel that they could undertake a full club ride to come out and ride at a gentle pace with club members who will encourage them. Nobody is ever left behind, and this is a superb way of starting off this great activity. The ride on 4th July is a slightly longer all-day ride for high summer (assuming we get one), and is expected to finish about 3pm. This is a mainly off-road route and a mountain bike is recommended, although it can be ridden on a hybrid or tourer.

Social Events

Apart from our regular pub evenings on the first Thursday of each month, we have one special event this season: the Chinese evening on 11th September. This is a presentation by Maree on her trip to China, and the evening includes Chinese food! Tickets £5 from Maree.

Challenge Rides

These are rides of various distances which have to be completed in a time limit. Seven of them are in **bold** print which signifies that they are part of the Huddersfield and District CTC Award Scheme: see page 14. Audax rides have to be entered on the standard audax entry form and an entry fee is payable, which varies according to the event. More details can be had from the individual organisers or from Events Secretary Peter Ralph (contact details on page 3).

Sunday Club Rides

These are all-day rides which include cafe stops for refreshment and idle chatter, though you can still bring your own packed food if you wish.

Tuesday Evening Club Rides

These are short evening rides timed to finish at dusk, so they are longer in mid-season and shorter at either end of the season. They do not include cafe stops apart from the four supper rides. Note that the season starts off with a supper ride on 21 April. We need to know in advance who wants to partake of these so the Tunnel End Inn have some idea how much food to prepare, so if you want a supper contact Kevan Shuttleworth (contact details on page 3). Choose from home-made meat-and-potato pie (with mushy peas); or vegetarian option (which tends to be either cheese-and-onion pie or jacket potato or some kind of pasta bake). Price will be around £5. You can of course still come on the ride without ordering a supper, just to enjoy our stimulating company.... And possibly a jar or two at the Tunnel End. Perish the thought....

RIDES AND EVENTS 2009

Date	Destination	Meet	Time	Organiser
Sun 12 April	Old Moor Wetlands Centre (via TransPennine Trail)	Dunford Bridge	10am	TJ
Sun 19 April	Spring into the Dales 110km Audax	Hebden Bridge	9.00am	CC
Sun 19 April	Leap into the Aire 60km Audax	Hebden Bridge	10am	CC
Sun 19 April	Winterset (some off road)	Somerset Bridge Horbury Bridge	9.00am 10am	DE
Tue 21 April	Tunnel End Inn (Supper)	Warren House	7.00pm	KS
Sun 26 April	50 miles in 5 hours (N Yorks DA)	Thornton- le-Dale	10am	KR
Tue 28 April	Meltham	Gynn Lane	7.00pm	KS
Sat 2 May	High Flatts	Denby Dale	10am	KR
Sun 3 May	History Ride (The Viaducts)	Somerset Bridge	9.00am	GC
Tue 5 May	Fulstone	Somerset Bridge	7.00pm	KS
Thu 7 May	Pub Social Evening	Grove	8.30pm	AI
Sat 9 May	Butty's Brid Trip 310km Audax	Meltham Scout HQ	6.00am	PR
Sun 10 May	Coxwold Cyclists' Service	Tadcaster	9.00am	KR
Tue 12 May	Scapegoat Hill	Junction Inn	7.00pm	KS
Sat 16 May	36 miles in 2½ or 3hours	Norland PO	1.45pm	LB
Sat 16 May	16 miles in 2 hours	Norland PO	1.45pm	LB
Sun 17 May	Examiner Charity Challenge	Meltham	9.00am	JR

RIDES AND EVENTS 2009

Date	Destination	Meet	Time	Organiser
Tue 19 May	Clifton	Somerset Bridge	7.00pm	KS
Thu 21 May	25 miles in 2 hours	Fixby	7.00pm	PR
Sun 24 May	Wortley	Somerset Bridge	9.00am	ML
Tue 26 May	Cannon Hall	Trycycling	7.00pm	AP
Sun 31 May	Roughlee	Fartown Bar	9.00pm	JR
Tue 2 June	Sunny Vale	Fartown Bar	7.00pm	KS
Wed 3 June	32 miles in 2½ hours	Denholm Gate	7.00pm	CC
Thu 4 June	Pub Social Evening	Grove	8.30pm	AI
Sat 6 June	TransPennine Trail	Dunford Bridge	10am	TJ
Sun 7 June	100km in 8 hours	Wakefield	9.00am	PR
Tue 9 June	Scammonden	Paddock Head	7.00pm	KS
Bike Week 13 - 21 June				
Sat 13 June	Bradford Cycling Festival	Fartown Bar	9.00am	KS
Sun 14 June	Dewsbury Marina Festival	Stadium	9.00am	JG
Sun 14 June	The Red Rose Ride (200km Audax)	Halifax Oddfellows	8.00am	DD
Tue 16 June	Ravensthorpe (Supper)	Cambridge Rd	7.00pm	KS
Sat 20 June Sun 21 June	York Cycle Show	Knavesmire (York Racecourse)		KR
Tue 23 June	Holme Moss	Gynn Lane	7.00pm	KS

RIDES AND EVENTS 2009

Date	Destination	Meet	Time	Organiser
Sun 28 June	Mother Shipton's 100km Audax	Easingwold	9.00am	PR
Tue 30 June	Thornhill Edge	Somerset Bridge	7.00pm	KS
Thu 2 July	Pub Social Evening	Grove	8.30pm	AI
Sat 4 July	Kirklees Eastern Riding Route	Trycycling	10am	KR
Sun 5 July	Hilly 80 miles in 10 hours	Dewsbury	8.00am	PR
Tue 7 July	The Windmills	Gynn Lane	7.00pm	KS
Sun 12 July	Edale	Lockwood Bar	9.00am	AI
Tue 14 July	Tunnel End Inn (Supper)	Paddock Head	7.00pm	KS
Sun 19 July	Brimham Rocks 200km Audax	Fairburn	8.00am	JR
Sun 19 July	Wetherby 100km Audax	Fairburn	9.00am	JR
Tue 21 July	Hade Edge	Gynn Lane	7.00pm	KS
Sun 26 July	TBA	Somerset Bridge	9.00am	TBA
Tue 28 July	Northorpe	Somerset Bridge	7.00pm	AP
Sat 1 Aug	Easy Riders (Some off road)	Oakwell Hall	10am	JR
Sun 2 Aug	Phil and Friends	TBA		JR
Tue 4 Aug	Stainland	Fartown Bar	7.00pm	KS
Thu 6 Aug	Pub Social Evening	Grove	8.30pm	AI
Sun 9 Aug	Linton Lock	Tadcaster	9.00am	DE
Tue 11 Aug	Digley	Gynn Lane	7.00pm	AP
Sun 16 Aug	Family Ride/Freewheel Comp	Bus Station	9.00am	JR

RIDES AND EVENTS 2009

Date	Destination	Meet	Time	Organiser
Tue 18 Aug	Honley	Warren House	7.00pm	KS
Sun 23 Aug	Al Fresco Ride	New Mill	9.00am	PR
Tue 25 Aug	Bolster Moor	Paddock Head	7.00pm	KS
Sun 30 Aug	Gargrave	Fartown Bar	9.00am	ML
Tue 1 Sep	Magdale	Somerset Bridge	7.00pm	KS
Thu 4 Sep	Pub Social Evening	Grove	8.30pm	AI
Sat 5 Sep	Easy Riders	Crow Nest	10am	DE
Sun 6 Sep	50 miles in 5 hours	Dewsbury	10am	PR
Tue 8 Sep	Compo's Cafe (Supper)	Gynn Lane	7.00pm	KS
Fri 11 Sep	Chinese Evening	Stadium	7.00pm	MH
Sun 13 Sep	Askern	Somerset Bridge	9.00am	PR
Sun 20 Sep	Monsal Head and Bakewell	Lockwood Bar	9.00am	JR
Sun 27 Sep	Roughstuff Ride	Mirfield Co-Op	10am	DE
Thu 1 Oct	Pub Social Evening	Grove	8.30pm	AI
Sat 3 Oct	Calder Valley Greenway	Cambridge Rd	10am	KS
Sun 4 Oct	Season of Mists 100km Audax	Hebden Bridge	9.00am	CC
	Mellow Fruitfulness 50km Audax	Hebden Bridge	10am	CC
Sun 4 Oct	Wintersett (some off-road)	Somerset Bridge Horbury Bridge	9.00am 10am	DE
Sun 11 Oct	Gerry's Autumn Brevet	Wigginton	10am	PR

RIDES AND EVENTS 2008

MEETING POINT DETAILS

Cambridge Rd	Car park at bottom of Cambridge Road
Crow Nest	Crow Nest Park, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury
Denby Dale	Pie Hall, Wakefield Road
Dunford Bridge	Car Park at end of disused railway track (Windle Edge)
Fartown Bar	Junction of Bradford Road and Spaines Road
Grove	The Grove, 2 Spring Grove Street, HD1 4BP
Gynn Lane	Junction of Gynn Lane and New Mill Road, Honley
Junction Inn Road	Roundabout at junction of Westbourne Road and Gledholt
Lockwood Bar	Junction of Lockwood Road and Swan Lane
Meltham	Sports and Community Centre, Mean Lane
New Mill	Post Office
Oakwell Hall	Country Park, Warrens Lane, Batley
Paddock Head	Roundabout at junction of Longwood Road and Luck Lane
Somerset Bridge	Junction of Wakefield Road and Kings Mill Lane, Aspley
Stadium	Business and Leisure Complex, Stadium Way
Tadcaster	Bus Station Car Park
Tricycling	Bike shop, 9a North Road, Kirkburton
Warren House	Junction of Manchester Road and Deep Lane, Milnsbridge

ORGANISER DETAILS

For further details on any ride or event, contact the organiser as detailed below.

AI	Andrew Ireland	01484 688285
AP	Alan Priim	01484 604283
CC	Chris Crossland	01422 832853
DD	Dave Dodwell	d.dodwell@bradford.ac.uk
DE	Denise Evans	01924 517737
GC	Geoff Childs	01484 842331
JG	John Gleadow	01484 234077
JR	John Radford	01484 851480
KR	Ken Roberts	01484 604157
KS	Kevan Shuttleworth	01484 543531
LB	Leslie Baker	01422 340638
MH	Maree Hearsum	01484 687135
ML	Maurice Legood	01924 408045
PI	Peter Ireland	01484 685525
PR	Peter Ralph	01924 520801
TJ	Tony Jagger	01484 605444

AWARDS PROGRAMME 2009

Date	Event	Start	Time	Organiser
Thu 21 May	25 miles in 2 hours	Fixby Water Tower	7pm	PR
Sun 7 Jun	100km in 8 hours	Wakefield Chantry Bridge	9am	PR
Sun 5 Jul	Hilly 80 miles in 10 hours	Dewsbury Minster	8am	PR
Sun 19 Jul	Wetherby 100km Audax	Fairburn Village Hall	9am	JR
	Brimham Rocks 200km Audax	Fairburn Village Hall	8am	JR
Sun 16 Aug	Family Ride/ Freewheel Competition	Huddersfield Bus Station	9am	JR
Sun 6 Sep	50 miles in 5 hours	Dewsbury Minster	10am	PR
Sun 27 Sep	Roughstuff Ride	Mirfield Co-Op	10am	DE

Organiser details

PR	Peter Ralph	01924 520801	peteralph2001@fsmail.net
DE	Denise Evans	01924 517737	devans@yahoo.co.uk
JR	John Radford	01484 851480	johnradford@talktalk.net

Entry fees £2 per event

The audax rides on 19 July require appropriate entry forms and additional fees.

The Huddersfield and District CTC Awards Scheme awards a certificate, detailing all rides successfully ridden, plus the following awards:

Gilt Medal	for 3 rides
Plaque	for 4 rides
Cup	for 5 rides
Special Award	for 6 rides

TRAINS AND BOATS BUT NO PLANES (CONTINUED)

Dave Robinson continues the tale of his German trip

If you missed our previous ramblings (aren't you the lucky ones), I'll just do a brief recap. Train to Newcastle, Ferry to Amsterdam, overnight train to Ulm in southern Germany, then cycle down to Lake Constance which is where we are at the moment.

On a bright sunny morning we left our hotel at Kresbronn, after raiding the breakfast table of course. Riding along the lakeside path you soon arrive at the village of Wasserburg, a beautiful place with flower-filled streets dating from the 8th century; the village that is, not the flowers.



Soon after, we were in Lindau which is very pleasant place and deserves more time than the two hours we were there. The old town is situated on an island which is linked to the mainland by a railway and road bridge. The cycle route runs by the side of the railway and eventually leads you to the harbour, area the entrance of which is guarded by the Marble Lion of Bavaria and a lighthouse, with the Alps as a backdrop.

Lindau railway station is also the official start of the Bodensee-Konigssee cycle route which we would be following for the next few days. It was already very warm when we left Lindau heading towards Immenstadt, the temperature was to reach 32C today, the hottest day we had and also the hardest day's cycling. The map was peppered with little black arrows. When riding round the lake route there are loads of cyclists, but as soon as we'd left the lake I think we only saw half a dozen all day (or was it six, I can't quite remember). The hills came thick and fast, I was in my element. We passed through villages with unpronounceable names like Hergensweiler and Obernutzenbrugg, it's hard enough writing them down never mind saying them.



We stopped to take a photo of Schloss Syrgenstein, also to allow the brakes to cool after a long descent. There were not many places to buy any supplies on route but the locals very kindly topped water bottles up on more than one occasion. So it was a welcome sight when we came across a Gasthof at a tiny place called Malaichen for a well-earned glass of

coke.

Just after the village of Gestratz we hit our hardest climb of the day, a gut-wrenching, thigh-busting, back-breaking 15% for 2 km. I enjoyed it immensely. There were picture-postcard views around every corner and the top of every hill. We continued through Stiefenhofen and Buffings before arriving at our hotel in the hamlet of Ratholz. The Gasthof Jagehaus is a traditional Bavarian Inn, serves good food and has comfortable rooms at a reasonable price.

Awoke to a grey miserable day, rode the 7km to Immenstadt. Supposed to be great views over the lake Grosser Alpsee, but sadly not today. Wandered round town by which time rain was steadily falling. More hills was the order of the day, the higher we got the worse the weather. It had been 32C the previous day, today it was 14C. Lunched in a bus shelter Audax style, rode through Rettenberg then carried on the main road to shorten the distance and eventually descended into Nesselwang where we took refuge in a cafe. Back on the bike we picked up the route again through Eisenberg, Hopferau and Hopfen am See to Fussen where we were staying 2 nights at the YHA, which is the most miserable, soulless place I have ever stayed with staff to match. To top it all had an awful night's sleep because we had Germany's national snoring champion in our room. Fussen is a nice town, situated in the foothills of the Alps, surrounded by lakes and has many fine buildings and in Roman times was on the road connecting Northern Italy to Ausburg. Most visitors to Fussen come to see the nearby Schloss Neuschwanstein, King Ludwig 11's famous castle, and Schloss Hohenschwangau. Sadly we didn't see them at their best due to the weather, visibility was poor and it was still raining heavily.

When we left the hostel next morning it was raining worse than ever. We were only going as far as Oberammergau, but first of all we wanted to visit a church called the Wieskirche near Steingaden. The church is said to be one of finest Rococo churches in the world and was listed as a Unesco world heritage site in 1983. On another day we would have appreciated it more but we were cold and wet and the cafe across the road was more alluring. According to our guide book, the next section was along a forest trail and we would have to dismount and push the bike across two streams. Due to 48 hours' torrential rain these were now quite a lot bigger, about 6 metres wide and almost knee deep in places. So it was bags off and do a couple of trips across the river. What an exciting life we lead. The section of track was only about 7km long but it felt like we'd been there all day. We arrived at Oberammergau YHA too early but they took pity on us and let us check in and put the drying room especially for us. Wasn't that nice. We had the place to ourselves for a couple of hours then 3 coach loads of children from hell arrived, whom the teachers made no attempt to control, especially at 3 in the morning. Andrea met one of the staff members in the corridor before breakfast. I don't how much he understood but I think he knew he'd been told off. I was shaking and she wasn't talking to me.

Oberammergau is in a beautiful setting nestling among the Alps; most of the buildings are beautifully painted but is probably best known for The Passion Play which has been performed there since 1633 and is due to take place again in 2010.

For the first time in three days the sun was shining when we got up. We left Oberammergau heading for Bad Tolz. There was an off-road section marked on the route but we gave it a miss and rode straight into Murnau via Bad Kohlgrub. The road out of Murnau had a road closed sign on it: nine times out of ten you can get through on a bike so we carried on down the hill. The road was flooded and there was a Dutch couple wading through pushing their bikes thigh deep in water for about 50 metres. It would have been a challenge even for Moses. The couple advised us to find another route. The gears had been playing up a bit for a couple of days, but by the time we got back to Murnau the freewheel had given up the ghost. We found a bike shop, he was just about to close for lunch when we got there. He didn't have the part in stock, but he rang a colleague in the next town who did. He drove to pick up the part, told us to return at 2.30 and the bike would be ready. We had a wander round the town which is well worth visiting, returned to the shop and true to his word the tandem was ready. That's what I call service.

The gentleman at the shop gave us directions we needed and we were off again. We had hoped to visit a monastery at Benediktbeuern but time was against us so we went straight to our Hotel at Bad Tolz where we were staying for two nights.



We liked Bad Tolz: it had a lovely relaxed feel about it, and bags of character. The old town has been well preserved especially on the Marktstrasse, a steep cobbled street leading down to the River Isar. As in Oberammergau the buildings are beautifully painted. It's worth the effort walking up to the church on the Kalvarienberg, it's one of the most famous churches in Bavaria. Set high above the town you get a fantastic view of the area.

We had a choice now, we could ride two days to Berchtesgaden, not 100% sure we could get the tandem on the train back to Munich, or follow the Isar river route into Munich and spend our time there. The decision was made next morning when we got up and it was raining worse than ever and was a poor forecast for the rest of the week. We took the river route towards Munich, about 60km passing through Wolfratshausen, Dingharting and the Grunwalder forest.

We booked into The Best Western Hotel, double the price of anywhere else we'd stayed but it was near the train station and there was somewhere secure for the tandem. They must have thought we were a couple of tramps when we walked into reception, wet through and splattered with mud, but as long as your credit card works they're not bothered. They were even more surprised when Andrea asked for a bucket of soapy water to wash the bike. We were even given a tea towel to dry it. Munich is a very cycle-friendly city, it is easy to get around and is well worth visiting.

We spent our last day on a trip to Dachau Concentration Camp: it's a stark reminder of man's inhumanity to man. Sadly it was time to board the 22.42 overnight train to Amsterdam. Then the ferry home. Germany is a great country to cycle in and we greatly enjoyed our trip there. People were friendly and helpful except the staff at Fussen YHA. The German Tourist Board web site is a mine of information for trip planning as is the German railway website. Gute Reise.

Picture near Oberammergau



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