

CWAM



NEWSLETTER

March 2023

CWAM first, our successes ~ our 'raison d'etre'

Congratulations to

Steve Krikler

for joining the ranks of the fantastic CWAM Observer team

And **Chris Tudball**

For leading your First Rideout on the 15th February

Also this month

Tess Pugh received the Terry White Memorial Training Award

Phil Bengler gained the associate award

and **Mike Darby** (though absent) the group award

Going to press, so any further passes this month will be announced in the next issue.

Watching the amazing video of the police motorcyclist (see the 'Missed by those not on Facebook' section below) reminded me that when I first joined CWAM I was pleased to see that they did additional training, in particular slow riding and manoeuvring skills sessions; but then COVID got in the way. So I tried Moto Gymkhana hoping that might help me. However, whilst for Candice it was like leading a duck to water, for me it was more like being dropped in the deep end before I'd mastered the 'Doggy-paddle'.

So, fingers crossed that later this summer, (once the heavy involvement with Observer Training and the backlog of associates eases, of course); there might be another training session for some of us to improve our skills in this respect? I'm thinking of something a bit 'tamer' than Moto Gymkhana for those of us for whom that is just too 'full on'? I do understand that it's all about practice, practice, practice, but at the outset, until One knows the basic techniques **to** practice, (and there is therefore much more of a chance of dropping your bike), surely it's better to work on it within a group, so there's help on hand to pick your bike back up!!

Club Ride outs in February

Roger Barrett ~ Wednesday 1st

Ride out to Chipping Norton

Anyone who thought that motorcyclists put their bikes away for Winter would have been surprised to see twelve of us riding in formation (more or less) through rural Warwickshire and Oxfordshire on the first day of February.



Unfortunately these same rural roads can sometimes mean an element of mud so the Golden Rule is always on my mind when the view of the road ahead shortens for any reason - make sure you can stop in the distance you can see to be clear ahead, on your own side of the road obviously.

After arriving safely in Chipping Norton the staff at the Old Mill Café made us very welcome and we spent a pleasant hour with hot drinks and food ranging from carrot cake to bacon butties to salmon and avocado brioche for some (hardy bikers indeed!).

Suitably fed we enjoyed temperatures of 8C on the way back which was more direct to avoid the earlier mud and after a week of no rain we finally had some dry tarmac to ride on. Bliss at this time of year.



And this comment from Nick Lilley on Facebook ~ *Living the dream with CWAM on a Goldilocks run to Chipping Norton, not too hot, not too cold and a route that was just right. Thanks Roger.*

John Chivers ~ Sunday 12th

Rideout to High Ash Farm Café, Abbots Bromley



Nick Lilley responded on Facebook ~

Living the dream, with CWAM at High Ash Farm, Abbots Bromley.

A great ride especially the return leg through mile after mile of bare hedged lanes. Thanks John

Unfortunately, the only other comments that I could find regarding what must have been a great ride (because it was led by John), were rather cryptic.

I.e. this one from Colin Brink ~

I know "H" aren't said out loud in Hinckly, now also no "C"s

(????)

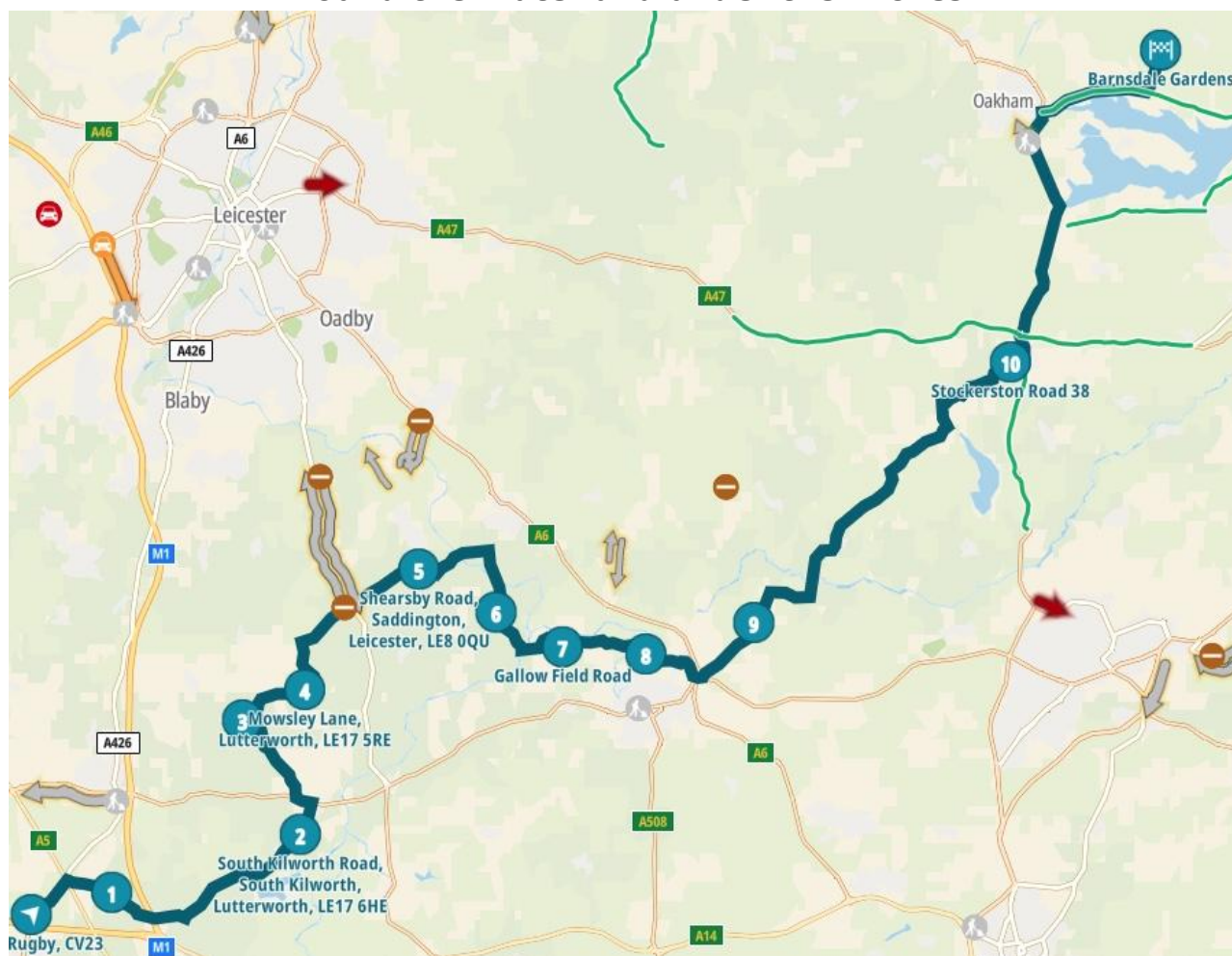
Ed.)



Chris Tudball ~ Wednesday 15th

Ride out to Barnsdale Gardens, Oakham

Around the Water and under the Arches

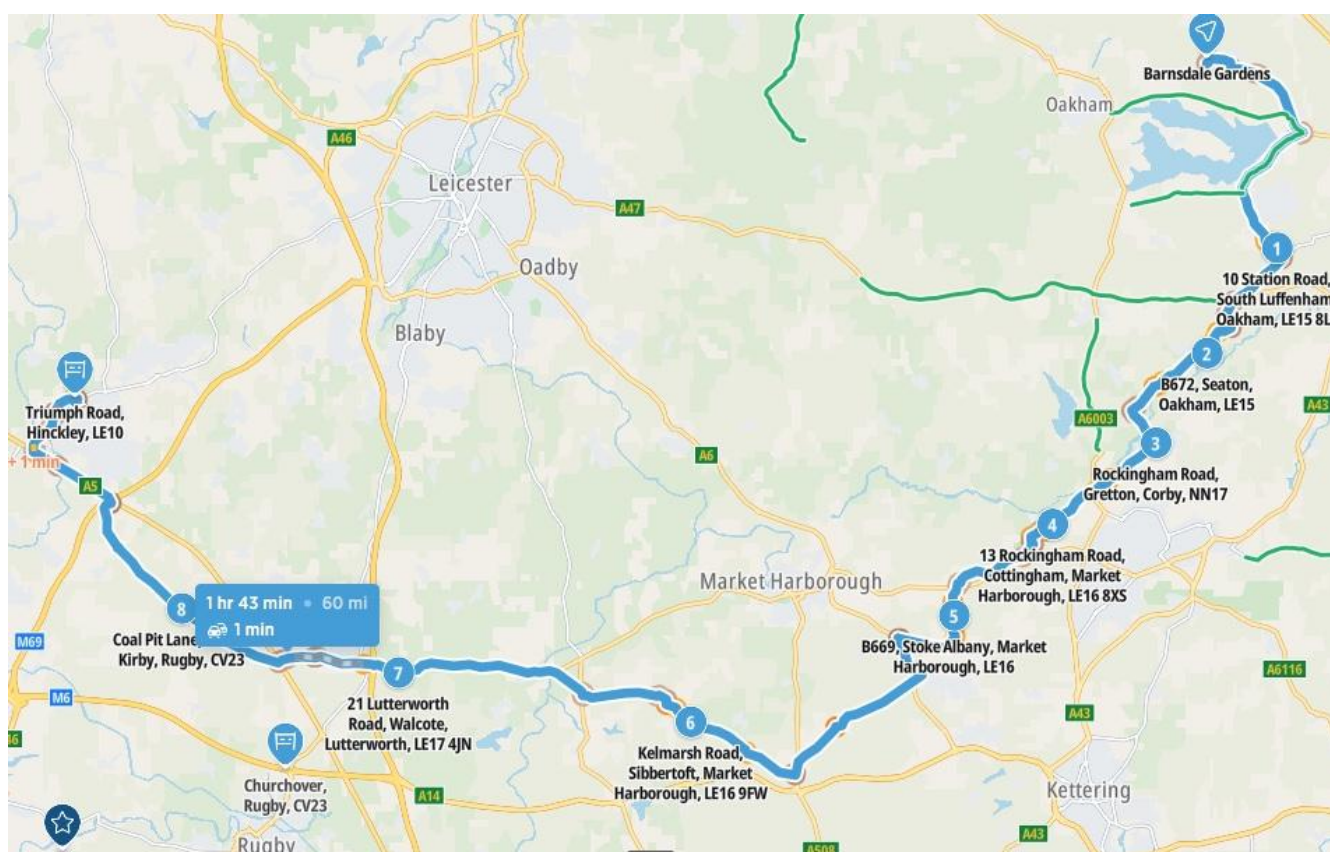


This was my first ride out as lead rider! Having recced the route several (numerous) times, the day dawned cold and clear. Quite cold in fact, 1 degree and a widespread frost. **Major panic, do we go or not?** The forecast was to get warmer during the day so off we set to Rugby Moto Services for our rendezvous.

By now we had 6 degrees and blue skies as eight of us, including one associate, set off. I had chosen "back" roads to head towards Oakham, skirting Foxton Locks, Gartree Maximum Security Prison and Market Harborough. There was some evidence of agricultural movements on the roads (mud), but it was mostly dry and navigable.

We eventually picked up the B664, a fast flowing, scenic road and a favourite of mine, and followed it through to Uppingham, then onto Barnsdale, catching an impressive view of the winter sun reflecting off Rutland Water.

Good food at Barnsdale Gardens and we made it in time before the breakfast menu closed at 11.30. The actual gardens were founded by Geoff Hamilton in 1983 and for those of us with longer memories will remember, featured prominently in his "Gardeners' World" TV series.



Our return journey took us to the east and south, around Rutland Water, past the St. George's Army Barracks at North Luffenham and down to, and under the Morcott railway viaduct, at 1275 yards, the longest masonry viaduct in Britain. Beforehand, in the café, we each attempted to guess how many arches we thought it would have. We came nowhere near, 25 being the highest figure. In fact it has 82 arches, each arch being 40 feet wide.

Continuing on mainly fast B roads we now we had 14 degrees and almost completely dry roads for our ride back along the Welland valley, past Rockingham Castle, skirting Lutterworth and on to the Triumph 1902 café at Hinckley.

A good ride, 110 miles round trip, worth all the effort beforehand and, if you are contemplating organising your first ride out as leader, do it. It is well worth it. And finally, as Nick said afterwards, a good, challenging ride. Would be good to re-run in the summer. So, watch this space!

*(Chris passed his test around May 2022, so in such a short time, this is an excellent **First Ride-out** indeed. Very well documented, including great maps. Also I might add, like Mark Lunt last January, very brave to choose to run your first one with the ever possible inclement weather at this time of year. Well done! Ed.)*

Nick Lilley ~ Sunday 5th

Impromptu rideout to Touchdown Café, Wellesbourne.



The AGM

Wed 15th

A brief view of the AGM very kindly submitted by Nick Lilley

Just as swallows congregate on telephone wires when the September sun slides sleepily into October so, with instinctive regularity, do CWAMs flock to Shilton Village Hall as daylight trespasses on the ever-lengthening nights of February. Thus a creditable 35 members attended CWAM's 2023 AGM.

Chairman Mark Lunt controlled affairs with admirable flair taking us through the successes of 2022. I use the word advisedly because it is accepted that our observers don't simply produce test passes in quantity, they take the time and effort to create road-users of quality. They may transform ugly ducklings into veritable swans of the road but such a metamorphosis takes time, with the result that there are many waiting in the wings eager to take flight. You've all had copies of Mark's speech so I'm not going to repeat it, not so with the Treasurer's report.

Bob Langford, with uncharacteristic brevity, took us through the group's finances which remain in a healthy position. Bob has endured months of torment attempting the seemingly simple task of transferring our funds from HSBC, who wished to extract usurious charges, to NatWest who are currently less tight-fisted. This transpired to be equal in magnitude to the endeavour of transmuting base metal into gold. Nevertheless, we now enjoy a slick, electronic banking process which retains the security of double signatures. Bob received the Chair's well deserved thanks for all his efforts.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the presentation of the annual awards which thankfully lacked the cringing acceptance speeches of less prestigious ceremonies such as the Brits or the Oscars although our recipients would undoubtedly have made a better fist of things than those 'ingratiating luvvies'.

The Terry White Memorial Training Award, which is in the gift of the training team, recognises outstanding achievements of anyone involved in the training process. This year Training Officer Andy Spencer presented it to Tess Pugh. Tess' journey is a testament to perseverance. As one of the more recently qualified observers, her first experience of mentoring was somewhat tarnished and fraught with unusual difficulties, so much so that she considered calling it a day. Thankfully, she persisted and her next associate responded to her coaching so well that they were awarded a F1RST. Evidence, if it were needed, of Tess' skill and ability, demonstrating that she is a worthy recipient of the award.



The Associate Award is in the gift of CWAM's team of observers. All associates who pass the advanced test work hard improving their riding skills to reach the required level. However, some need to do that little bit more and so it was with Phil Bengier. Although he had 25 check rides, Phil exhibited a positive attitude and a willingness to learn throughout the process. He put in the hours of practise and effort that ultimately resulted in him achieving a F1RST. It was with pleasure that his observer, Mike Searle, presented Phil with the Associate Award.

Mark announced a third award, the Group Award, given in recognition of service to the club. Unfortunately the recipient was unavailable on the night, so more of that in April's newsletter. Bit of a cliff-hanger there, an enticement to scour the next newsletter if ever one was needed.

The committee elections resulted in Chair Mark Lunt, Treasurer Bob Langford and Group Secretary Nick Lilley. Tarnya Brink, John Chivers, John Kickham and Dave Shakespeare being re-elected to the committee. Chris Allen resigned from the committee after several years' service and the committee thanked him for his work and support during that time.

And as the first of the latest cohort of trainee observers to qualify, Neville Pugh was presented with his very well deserved **Local Observer certificate** by Mark Lunt. **See photo below.**

I think it's fair to say that although the committee wholeheartedly supports the aims of IAM RoadSmart, it considers their focus at the local level to be somewhat blurred. With that in mind we asked members to recognise the contribution made by our Observers, who are the lifeblood of the organisation, by conditionally refunding their CWAM subscriptions. Similarly, we wished to offset the pretty steep increase in IAMRS membership, by reducing the CWAM subscription for 2023. This means that overall, members will pay no more this year than they did in 2022.



Having dealt with the glad tidings, a scraping of chairs, collapsing of tables and discarding of fish and chip wrappers brought proceedings to a close.

Motorcycle Memes anyone?

**SUNDAY BIKE MEET
ALL 2 WHEELS WELCOME**



(This one is alien to me as, despite my age, I never owned a British bike with a kickstart, but I'm guessing plenty of you can relate to it?)




Missed last month by at least a third of our members, who are not Facebook users.....


 **Nick Lilley**
Admin · 8 February at 11:05 · 🌐

Three points plus a £100 fine

I am undoubtedly sending coals to Newcastle with this post - 'Enforcement cameras' on smart motorways are now used to enforce Red X lane closures. The penalty can be three points plus a £100 fine.



 **Martin Payne** shared a post.
5 d · 🌐



Cop Shows Off His Motorbike Skills

This was amazing. Here's the link to watch it from this Newsletter.
https://fb.watch/iVF18_yIMI/

 **Mark Lunt** shared an event.
8 February at 22:06 · 🌐

<https://facebook.com/events/s/adventure-bike-rider-festival-/581183180038155/>

Good evening folks. Please have a look at the email I have sent to you all earlier this evening. There's an opportunity to volunteer to be part of the IAMRS presence at the ABRF this year. Places will fill quickly, so if you are interested, please reply to the email ASAP. For info I am posting the ABRF page here, so you can see what it's all about.



ABR FESTIVAL
21-25 | JUNE | 2023
RAGLEY HALL • WARWICKSHIRE
www.abrfestival.com

FRI, 23 JUN-25 JUN
Adventure Bike Rider Festival 2023
Alcester
Shared to CWAM

☆ Interested



Roger Barratt shared a link.

10 February at 16:10 · 🌐



There are still places left on Warwickshire BikeSafe courses in April & May. Highly recommended 🏍️



BIKESAFE.CO.UK

Warwickshire Police - BikeSafe

Warwickshire BikeSafe workshops are the perfect skills check-up before choosing y...



John Chivers

Admin · 5 d · 🌐



Thanks everyone for your company to Cattow's Farm Tea Shop in Heather this morning.



Here's their web site link to read more <https://www.britishmotorcyclists.co.uk/>

First Unassisted African Continent Crossing On An Electric Motorcycle

Other news

23 February 2023

(I picked out this one especially for John Chivers

Ed.)



A Swedish woman has made the first unassisted ride across Africa by electric motorcycle. **Sinje Gottwald**, a sales manager for Swedish e-bike manufacturer **CAKE**, rode a Kalk AP trail bike, covering over 8000 miles in 125 days. An experienced overlander, having ridden round the world by bike in 2017-20, she decided to take four months out of her sales job to ride the CAKE from Spain to South Africa.

"My dream was to see the world with my own eyes," she said, "and open up my own and people's views and ideas about Africa" – she also wanted to show that the 8,000 mile journey was possible on an electric bike without assistance. In 2019, German-born Thomas Jakel did ride the length of Africa on a Zero DSR, albeit with a back-up van (until that broke down irretrievably in Cameroon). Sinje's CAKE had a couple mechanical problems – one burnt out fuse and a loose cable, but fortunately, any problems were easily fixed.



Microcars Banned from Motorcycle Parking

(I should think so too!

Ed.)

CWAM events in March

For more detail on any of these events, please click on this direct [link](#) to the events diary on our website.

NB it says at the top "To view details of any event left click the text"

| when | what | where |
|---|---|---|
| Wed 1st 9:00 am to approx 13:00 pm | Rogers 1st Wednesday of the month Rideout | From Café Nero Rugby CV21 1SR a 90 miles route around Leicestershire with refreshments at Rothley Station and a possible Steam Train sighting! |
| Sun 5 th 09:00 | CWAM Club Sunday | Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS Bikes guard will be Jason W. |
| Wed 8 th 19:30 | CWAM Club night | The speaker is from 'Ultimate Hearing' talking about products to protect our hearing, plus all the usual socialising. |
| Sun 12 th 09:00 ? | A possible Rideout | Please contact John Chivers if you would like to lead a CWAM rideout. |
| Wed 15 th 09:30 | Alan Brickwood's mid- week ride out | From McDonalds, Europa Way, L'Spa CV31 3JZ a fab. 80 mile jaunt to The Hook Norton Brewery, Oxfordshire. |
| Sun 19 th 09:00 | CWAM Club Sunday | Please park sensibly/courteously at Jaguar Cars Sports & Social Club, Fenton Rd, CV5 9PS Bikes guard will be Nick Lilley. |
| Sun 26 th 09:00 | A Nick Lilley Sunday ride out | From Starbucks, A46 Southbound, a 100 miles route to The Old Prison Café Northleach |

Paul's further adventures, overwintering in Thailand

After I arrived in Chiang Mai I went to check out the Honda 500 X which is a lovely little bike. Whenever weight becomes a problem due to age, health etc it would be well worth a consideration.

I went up to the Golden Triangle famous for drugs running.

I stopped at one of the skywalk viewpoints, which is constructed out of glass.

I find it quite funny because a lot of the Thais are really scared on it and will only step where there are steel girders underneath (as you can see with the monk in the photo)



Unfortunately my sense of humour takes over and I do sometimes jump up and down behind them, which I find very amusing.

I ended up at the Golden Triangle itself and stopped there with a view of the Mekong river, where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet.



I've just got back from another long ride, it was over 1200 miles, we did the first half in one day. There were three of us, an American guy who is a very good off roader and an English/Swiss guy. I was leading the ride, back on the Suzuki 650 V strom which ran really well.





We went to a huge motorbike show the other side of Pattaya with over 50,000 people attending, it was extremely impressive.

They obviously keep it very low price for the exhibitors and food stalls, and free to enter, so there's literally hundreds of small stores selling just everything you could think of, with 3 main stages and a great mix of bands.

A lot of one percent clubs the Hells Angels, Outlaws and Pagans etc. but never any trouble. It will definitely be worth another visit next year.



But it was very long ride to get there, as you can't use the tolls roads on the motorbike at all. Navigating through Bangkok is extremely difficult but we managed it eventually. It was really hot, 90 to 100 degrees most of the time, the other 2 guys in particular really struggled with the heat, so we had to stop a few more times on the way back.

Next week I'll be giving the bike a rest, and having a change of scenery as I'm going on a scuba diving and snorkelling trip.

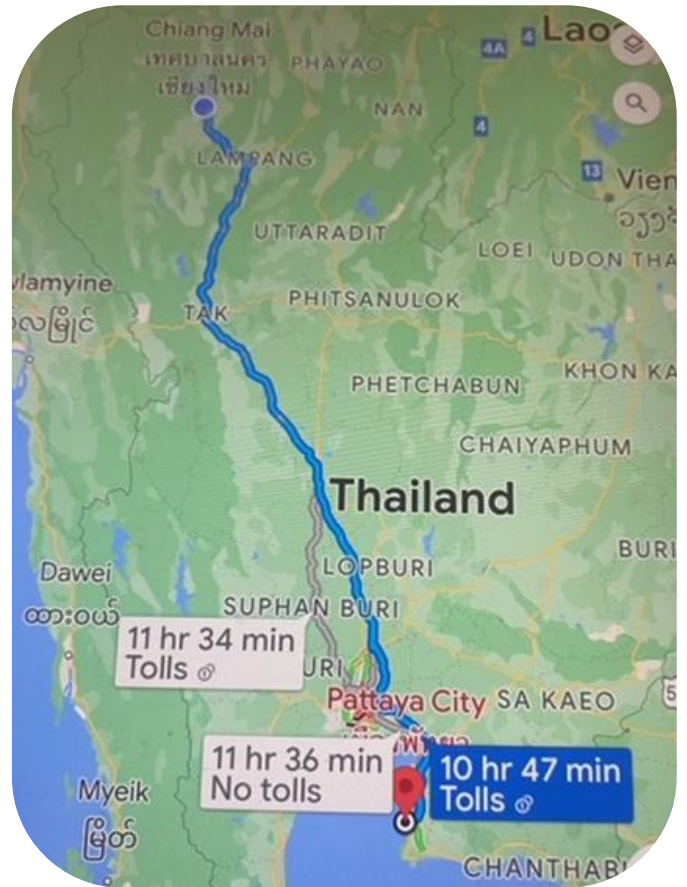


And some more photos of his bike, guys they met on the way and a map of the route.



So, whilst on my last ride-out in January, we set off at -1°C , Paul says he has had to cope some days with approaching 40°C ! With a mesh summer jacket like mine, that would be bliss, (as long as you keep moving)!

Oh, how the other half lives!



IAM RoadSmart News

As usual the latest IAM RoadSmart News is [here](#),
their tips and blogs are [here](#)
and their Facebook page is [here](#).



For all future events check out the [Diary page](#).

If anyone has news to share, tips to pass on, pictures for the gallery or items for sale please mail me (newsletter@cwam.org.uk).

Your website - your news - your contributions!

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THE END