

Hi Folks

You might like to try my mystery tour and treasure hunt, you might not.

Starting at Palmers Chip Shop car park, head west over the roundabout and along Bluebell Road. Turn left and continue past the entrance to a big house and up Old Road, taking a right turn at the top of the hill.

Over the speed bumps, and continue on Park Lane, lots of horses live up here. Past the palm tree, until you reach what was, the largest iron age hill fort in Europe. My Grandfather was the dynamite man in the quarries nearby.

Turn left just before the big layby, where the ice cream van is usually parked. Steady down the hill and pause at the bottom before turning right, to enjoy the view of the waterwheel and waterfall on the left. Mr Scilly lived in the mill house, when I was a child and I thought it must mean he was silly. My Gandparents lived just along here as well. At the top of the rise ahead, turn left and continue on to the next village, where you freewheel down North Street until you come to a T junction, with a bus shelter opposite.

Turn right and follow the road around, past a pub, with the name of a furry pet in its name. Continue on up a rise until you reach a cross roads, here you go left and climb a hill to reach a T junction at the top. Go right and go down the hill. On your way down, stop and have a look over the 5 bar gates on your right hand side. **Question 1, what is the name of the railway station on the sign above the garage door?**

Continue on past the petrol pumps (no longer in use) and on through the village. On your left you will come to a pub, once the Saracens Head but now named for someone who can't tell his ass from his elbow. Just before the phone box take a right, up Scotts way. Continue on to the junction with Snails Hill. Turn right and it's down hill, over the River Parrett to a T junction.

Turn right and then left at the top of the rise. Continue on this road until you come to what was, in the 19th century, one of the biggest villages in Somerset. Needless to say, it hasn't grown much, compared to others. **Question 2, keep your eyes open, as the first part of the village has an interesting name. Look out for the road sign, what is it?** My Grandfather was born here, one of 16 children. Turn right just after the post box and pass a pub, which has a sign depicting a king, whose father lost his head, **Question 3, who was he?** Continue on past the Church where my Great Grandparents are buried and the popular cyclists cafe, until you reach a T junction. Turn right and then next left after the chicane. About a mile up this road, you will come to a very pretty village, with three daggers in the coat of arms of a previous lord of the manor, on the village sign. My Grandmother started her working life as a maid in his service. Turn left into South Street and next right into Gas Lane. Follow on bearing right until you reach a T junction. Turn right and **Question 4, what is the owner of the Tea Rooms on the left hand side of the road called?** At the end of the road, go left at the village cross and pass the church. **Question 5, what is the colour of the clock face on the church tower?**

Continue on this road, with lovely views to the north, dropping down and passing a run down farm, which apparently belonged to my mother's ancestors in the 19th century. A little further along you come to a small village, continue through it until you come to a T junction. Turn right and you are now on a Roman Road. Follow this road past a pub, with a name that would seem more at home by the sea and go straight on, past a copper beech tree. About a mile later you arrive at the outskirts of the village that Sandra was born in. Turn left at the junction with the curious name of Snapant and climb a hill to a roundabout. Just opposite is the former Poulett Arms now under more exotic ownership. Turn left and almost immediately turn right, following the National Trust oak leaves sign. A little further on, cross over the A303 and continue on a road with lots of passing places. Don't deviate, stay on this road, as it passes a pottery, that does really good cakes and drop down hill to a picturesque village, which has a pub with a male farm animal in it's name. Just after the pub you will see the church on the opposite side of the road. Oddly, it has a hexagonal tower. **Question 6, can you name another local church with a hexagonal tower?**

Continue through the village and turn right after the village hall. Just under a mile later, you come

to a T junction, there is an old warehouse, now a house, to the right, which was the end of the line for a long forgotten canal. Turn right and cycle along what is affectionately known as “the land that planning permission forgot”. In reality, the 19th Century ribbon development, which follows the old canal and almost reaches the next village, dates from long before any planning controls. As you reach the aforementioned, next village, have a look at the church on the right hand side of the road.

Question 7, Which of the disciples is the church dedicated to (you will see a sign).

Ride up through the village, turning right at Westmoor Lane, opposite the pub named after two animals that probably wouldn't make good companions. Cycle for a mile on the flat, then half a mile uphill. You may want to take a break and climb the conical hill you find on your left and enjoy the view or have a swing, at this point. As you set off again, you will see a sign pointing at the entrance to Mr Temperley's establishment, producing a local beverage, **Question 8, what is the difference between the front and the back of the sign?** Did the sign writer indulge on Mr Temperley's produce, before setting to work, you may wonder.

Freewheel down the hill and carry on up to a T Junction. A pub named after a oxidised cutting implement is on your left. **Question 9, Follow the road ahead and look out for the answer, What was the village of the year 2018?** Continue down the shallow hill towards the centre of this village, turning right just before a pub that has a sign on the front wall, which means that cyclists are welcome. The road you are now on is called Dudmoor, follow it for about a mile and you will come to a T junction, where you turn left and cross a bridge over the River Parrett. Climb a shallow hill to reach a village with the name of a garment you put on if it's cold. Take the only right turn in the village and half a mile later you reach a much larger village.

Cycle on past the Fire Station, **Question 10, what are the two dates on the Railway Hotel (now flats),** to reach a T Junction. Turn right and proceed along North Street, before turning left at Steppes Crescent. Turn right at the mini roundabout ahead, then turn left before the Pauls Close sign. Cycle on, turning left up Bearley Bridge Road until you reach a T junction. Turn right and then left onto Foldhill Lane. Continue on until you reach the slip road of the A303. Turn left and then right over the bridge.

It's uphill to the village where Sandra grew up. Just after you pass the village sign turn right at a billboard advertising the dates of the Wincanton Horse Races. This is Marsh Lane, continue on it under the A3088 and on until you reach a T junction, where you turn left into Windsor Lane, past the Farm House with the big chimneys and up to another T junction. Turn left and continue past the big school to reach a village named after the large conical hill that looms over it. Pass by the last grand house to be built in the Elizabethan period. Weave through the village, passing two pubs, a Radio, TV and Film museum and a Post Office that sells equestrian equipment. Continue east on this road for two miles, until you reach the roundabout that leads to Blubell Road, when you take the first exit. At the end of the road cross the roundabout to Palmers Chip Shop car park and the end of your journey. You should have covered around 30 miles, seen some lovely Somerset countryside and answered the 10 questions.

With some local knowledge and half an hour in Google Earth and Wikipedia, you could work out the route and most of the questions but some you can't so you will have to do the ride. It's not a ride to do at speed so relax, enjoy the scenery and be observant. Have a nice day.