

Mystery Tour 2

The start of the ride is the same as Mystery Tour 1. From Palmer's Chip Shop car park, cross the roundabout and cycle west along Bluebell Road. Turn left at the end, cross over the bridge above the A3088, pass the drive of the big house and climb up Old Road. This time you turn left at the top and head east on Camp Road. The farmhouse you pass on your right was one of four pubs that used to serve the village behind you. Continue on this road for about a mile before turning right, down Gooseacre Lane. At the bottom turn right along the A30 and then next left into Manor Street. The village you are now in had a thriving rope and sail making industry in the 17th and 18th century. It continued in a small way right up until the second world war. It also has a road called Chur Lane, which only the brave or very silly cycle up. Turn left at the end of Manor Street and cycle along East Street before bearing left along Halves Lane. This will take you out of the village, past the playing fields and on to the junction with Primrose Hill. Cross straight over and continue on Halves Lane, turning left at the next cross roads into Mill Lane. Follow Mill Lane to a T junction, where you turn right. Ignore the next left turning and shortly after you will pass a cafe on the left.?

Question 1 The next house on is Hymerford House. A man was born in this house, who by 1711, was the first Englishman to explore Australia and circumnavigate the globe three times, who was he?

Stay on this road as it climbs a short hill, passing a cemetery on the left, before dropping down to a very pretty village. A famous American born poet is buried in the churchyard here. He wrote Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, Who was he? It's OK the church is not on our route so you don't have to answer this one. Just along the road you pass the pub, where first asked Sandra if she would go out with me, almost half a century ago. I must have caught her at a weak moment, as she said yes. After about half a mile you will come to a T junction, turn left and then almost immediately right. This second junction is called Pin Cushion Corner. I have no idea why. Google doesn't know either.

Passing a favorite cafe and farm shop on your left drop down the hill, under the railway bridge. Constable Cox was murdered by poachers just down here in 1876. Apparently he is buried in the cemetery you passed earlier. On the right is the dam of Sutton Bingham reservoir. Continue up the hill and look for a post box at a junction. **Question 2, What is the last collection time on a Saturday?**

Stay on this road all the way to the A37. Cross over, either straight across to the gated cycle path or left and right to pass the cafe and farm shop with a Scottish name. Head east, over a bridge and up the hill. Stay on this road through a curiously named village until you reach a cross roads on the outskirts of a much larger village. Turn right and after a short rise, the road drops down with a tight left hand bend, which can catch you out if you go too fast. Continue on past the abattoir and just after a railway bridge, you will see a sign, which brings to mind, **Shakespeare's longest play,**

Question 3 What is it?

Follow the road, to the next village, where you take the second left, don't take the first left turn, you could end up in deep water but wait until just before the Church. Follow this road as it weaves around for a mile before reaching a village where witches once held seances in a mystic maze and Sir Walter Raleigh once owned several buildings apparently. Look out for the Village Hall on the right. **Question 4 What is depicted on the weather vane, also, which farm animals are depicted on the weather vane of the house opposite?**

At the 12th Century village cross, bear right and climb the hill up to the Bailey Ridge. Follow the road around to the right at the top of the hill and continue for over a mile to the next left turn. This will bring you to a village with an enormous village green. Its name was given to it by Augustine monks, who lived a solitary existence here in the 12 and 13th centuries. A couple of miles after leaving the village you climb a short hill and on your left is a mid 19th century mansion. It suffered a disastrous fire in 2010, which cost £5 million in repairs, since then it's been divided into flats. There was a time when all the land around, including the road you are on, was part of the estate belonging to the mansion. A shallow descent brings you to a cross roads with the A352. Cross straight over and cycle for just over a mile to the next village. A famous British soldier and courtier grew up in

this village. He was a contemporary of the chap in question 1 (born a year before him), but I don't think they ever met. The soldier's father farmed nearby and was MP for Weymouth and later Lyme Regis. The father also bore the same name as a mid 20th century statesman, who was a direct descendant. **The soldier also owned a palace in Oxfordshire, Question 5, who was he?**

On reaching a junction, take a sharp left at the war memorial and continue north, looking out for the Village Hall. **Question 6, which Canadian born institution, donated the Millennium bench outside.** Cycle up a long but not too steep hill, drop down the other side and stay on this road for two and a half miles, passing two curious topiary figures on the right hand side of the road. One is obviously a dog, but the other could be an alien. Soon you arrive at a junction. Go left and in the front garden of the next house you come to, is the oldest post box in the world, that is still operational. To be honest, it's not emptied on a regular basis, just enough to say it's still in use. It has been here since 1853. **Question 7 in what English county was it made?** You may need to search in the foliage to reveal the answer.

Leaving the post box drop down the hill over the bridge and stay on this road until you take the next left turn. A mile and a half of pretty countryside brings you to another left turn at a T junction. Go south for just under a mile, where you come to a T junction. Turn right and cycle for about half a mile to a T junction on the A352. Turn right and almost immediately left. Continue on for a mile and a half, until you reach a T junction, where you turn left onto the Bailey Ridge road. Take the next right turning, after Pets Haven. Steady down the hill and speed on for a mile. Just before you reach a T junction at the end of the road, look left at the weather vane on the barn roof. **Question 8, what is depicted on it?**

Go right at the junction and climb a shallow hill to the outskirts of a large village. Drop down the hill, take care the road surface is famously bad and as you climb a sharp rise, turn left at the triangle into Church Street and follow on, looking for a building with a blue plaque on it. **The plaque is dedicated to a pioneer of inoculation. Question 9, what was his name?**

Continue to a T junction, where you turn right. Drop down to a junction we were at early in this adventure and turn right again and then left. On the wall of the cafe opposite this corner is another blue plaque. **This time dedicated to an Irish man who founded a school here. Question 10 what was his name?**

Go right at the next junction (Village shop here, if you need sustenance) and cycle out of the village. A mile and a half later you pass a railway halt on the Heart of Wessex line and reach a T Junction. Turn left pass the sewage farm and stay on this road for a mile until the next left turn. This will bring you in to Clifton Road. Pass under the railway bridge and through the corners, as you start up the long shallow hill look right. A Tudor mansion, the equal of Montacute House and Barrington Court once stood here. Sadly the family who owned it fell on hard times and it was demolished in the 18th century. Part of it was dismantled and built on to the front of Montacute House.

Climb the hill and drop down to a narrow bridge. Just a bit further along you will come to a junction. Turn left and next right up New Road. Go under the railway bridge and bear left climbing up Higher Bullen. Just as you reach the top, look left at the curious houses with the round roofs. These houses were built in 1925 by the Nissan – Petren company. They were supposed to be part of the homes for heroes initiative, after the first world war. Sadly the scheme was on the wane by then and only a few in local villages were built. Turn right and then left down Mowlease, before turning right into Bridle Way. Then go left into Court Lane and left again into Church Lane. This will take you uphill, past the 13 century church and through a “hollow” passing the entrance to a rugby club to reach a roundabout on the A37. Cross the roundabout, taking the second exit, past a pub with a colour in its name. Continue on this lane past the Windsor Cattery to a triangle with a small tree growing on it. Turn right and climb the hill, turning left into Lower Wraxhill Road. Then go right into Wraxhill Road. Take the next left into Beaconsfield Road and follow it around keeping right until you pass a garage **Question 11, What is the name of the Garage proprietor?**

At the end of the road, go left onto the A30. Continue west dropping down hill. Just before a roundabout turn left onto a marked cycle path and almost immediately go right to go anti clockwise, crossing two roads on the cycle path. Take care and go down hill following the cycle path on the

right hand side of the road down Bunford Lane. At the roundabout at the bottom follow the cycle way anticlockwise until you go west along the A3088 on the cycle path. Cross the roundabout, joining the cycle path north, until you arrive back at Palmer's Fish & Chip Shop car park and the end of the mystery tour.