

D & C WINGERS ECHO

Devon and Cornwall's Favourite Newspaper

WENDY RAKESTROW'S REPORT

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Since 2010



It was good to get together again just after the holidays for a chinwag. Six members made the Tuesday Rendezvous at the Star Inn, Liverton but it was only Mike's son Ben who turned out on a bike – not half a day old, he had just picked it up so was determined to show it off and we all duly paid attention even though it was pretty dark in the bike park.

D Day: today we heard the terrible news that Duncan Mitchell is no longer with us, will never more be plying us with cheese and alcohol at Wing Dings, we will never more

be trying to decipher his accent and that the world is a darker place. We hope wherever he is he is at peace.



There were four brave fellows on their bikes for the meeting but the rest of us were in cars, our excuse was that Peter had been asked to do a 'tech talk' so needed to take a big box of props – it looked like the school yard lucky dip box but by the time he'd turned it out it looked more like an autojumble! He entertained a dozen members after lunch with details about his latest project, instead of taking a bike to bits, this time he's trying to build one.

The meeting itself was fairly short, a few details about the calendar and updates from the officers followed by lunch. Bill & Helen, Roger & Marian had been to check out Ruda Holiday Park for a possible weekend later in the Spring and all reported it to be 'spot on'.

Peter, Chris & Anne managed to attend Duncan's funeral, some of the few on bikes (apart from Alba) but apparently about 150 people turned out from as far as Austria, The Netherlands and Ireland to send Duncan on his final journey – may the wind be beneath your wings old friend. Derek is planning a feature in Wing Span so I won't dwell on it here but Peter did just say how good it was to meet numerous old faces from 'way back when' who had managed the trip.

On a much brighter note five couples met at Gunnislake Station (in cars as no one was about to leave their bike for several hours in a station car park!).

We were off to Plymouth down the Tamar Valley on the train, when it arrived we found Glyn already on board – well, as he lives in Plymouth he decided to do the trip the other way round.



The rest of us caused chaos (not difficult) trying to buy tickets; the train manager was very good but said he would swap his shift before we all made the return journey! It was a wonderfully scenic trip but when Anne decided to admire the view we went straight into a cutting ha! The track went over the river on a high level elegant viaduct then underneath



Brunel's famous Royal Albert Bridge, alongside a modern incinerator and the Dockyard with several warships moored up. Once we had arrived, foregoing the suspect delights of station buffets, we headed for Plymouth Museum, a short hike away, and raided their café instead.

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Then some walked down to the Barbican to see Cap'n Jasper and others wandered around the museum until we all rendezvoused back in the café several hours later. Another scenic trip back up the valley finished a completely different day out for D&C, maybe we'll do other trains sometime.

Dates for March: 1st Tuesday Rendezvous, Plymouth; 20th monthly meeting @ Poldark Inn; 26th Poppy Bike Show @ RAF St Mawgan
Wendy Rakestrow

