

# D & C WINGERS ECHO

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## WENDY RAKESTROW'S REPORT

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**Peter managed** to get to the Luxembourg Treffen but without me as I had to work, it's a first so I hope he doesn't get a taste for it! It did give him the opportunity to try the new bike out again and travel light. Thanks to Bob, Bill and Dave for making sure he had a laugh and good company – they were all solo that weekend.



All in all a very good day which everyone said they enjoyed, a typical comment being ***"I thought I knew the area but I'd never been that way before"***!



**We deferred the Tuesday Rendezvous** to the second week to allow everyone time to get back from holidays and treffens, everyone came on bikes and had a good old chin wag about journeys home, the summer generally and plans for the coming months – several are off to Spain by the sound of it. The Skylark <http://www.theskylarkinn.co.uk/> did us proud with the food – Helen even had her own special of the night as they didn't have much left of what she ordered and the chef came to see her personally to apologize! By the time we all headed for home it was properly dark but a beautiful clear night, autumn is definitely here.

**The monthly meeting** was another standing one – this time in a car park at Cockington. On a beautiful misty morning a dozen bikes met up for coffee and bacon sarnies at Sourton then Peter led them back up the old A30 and through the lanes, skirted round Exeter, ignored Bridge Garage (the local Honda dealer) and headed for Dawlish and the coast. Unbeknown to us it was also the Dawlish Triathlon that day but as it had started at 5.30 am we didn't get held up too much although all around the Torbay coast was heaving with people enjoying the late summer sunshine. Consequently, after crossing the River Teign at Shaldon and following the seafront at Torquay, trying to park at Cockington was a little interesting but we managed it in the end. There we had a break for picnics, cream teas, lunch, ice cream or just a wander before being back for the meeting, not much to discuss, a summary of the last few events, a plea for new ideas for next year and a reminder of the upcoming AGM and Christmas events. Then it was back on the bikes and heading for Plymouth along the back roads; for those that didn't hare off on the A38 we ended with a cuppa and a goodbye at the Smithaleigh Hotel.

**The following weekend** Bill sent out a last minute "come out to play" email but we couldn't go, others could and here is his report "A small group, (John F, Glyn, Pete S, Steve & Ann, Bill), took advantage of the fine late summer weather and met up at the Buckfastleigh Steam Railway on Sunday 27th September. We enjoyed a very hearty breakfast and a bit of banter then set off to Dartington led by Glyn. We spent a little time there discussing Dartington's relative merits before agreeing that an ice-cream was called for. Moving on, we went to Slapton then Kingsbridge and finally stopped for afternoon coffee at the bike stop on the way back to Plymouth. It was an excellent and enjoyable outing." It just goes to show that all it takes is an email or a phone call to have a great day out.

**Paignton Bike Night** came to an end for the year with a bang; hundreds of bikes turned out as it was a glorious sunny day but when we got there a stiff breeze was coming off the water which meant that all the surfers were out and they had moved the bikes onto the grass to prevent sand blasting the paintwork! The whole thing was short and sweet as by 7.30 it was dark and so people were leaving as fast as the latecomers were arriving; a nice end to the season.

**Dates for November: 3rd Tuesday Rendezvous Lypstone; 15th Monthly meeting, AGM and calendar planning for next year Poldark Inn**

**Wendy Rakestrow**