

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

## **Rideout**

### **Devil's Bridge**

The ground is wet and there is drizzle in the air but I set off for Stockport as it is too late to cancel, the weather forecast for Kirby Lonsdale was for sun after ten. I fill up at Tesco before arriving at Decathlon to find three more committed, some may say we should be, Hatters waiting for the departure time for the ride to Devil's Bridge. At 10:30 with no more takers and the briefing complete we set off anti-clockwise round the M60, road still damp but no rain. Joining the M66 and the roads are beginning to dry and by the time we reached the A56 there was a hint of blue sky. A fuel check before we set off meant no need to stop at the A59 services so it was on to Gisburn and a left turn onto the A682, a road with fantastic views, undulations and twists and turns. We joined the A65 at Long Preston, sun and blue sky by now, and headed for Kirby Lonsdale. About five miles from Devil's Bridge we encountered slow moving traffic, surely not the queue for the bacon butty van..... No, travellers on their way to the Appleby horse fair with a Romany caravan with insufficient horse power, a very small pony in fact, to get up one of the hills. The road was blocked whilst he tried to reverse into a gateway. Once past, those with plenty of horsepower soon arrived at Devil's Bridge for refreshment. More travellers and plenty of motorcycles, only one Harley though. A chap from Walkden who had bought his bike from Preston asked about the intricacies of "Stage One" and loud pipes. He was informed of this and also of the Hatters and was invited to our next meeting, another new member?



**Three of the Committed Ones**



**The Bikes at Devil's Bridge**

Suitably refreshed we set off home, back down the A65 to Ingleton then left towards White Scar caves and the Ribbleshead viaduct, a right turn there and a stop at the Blindbeck tearooms in Horton for tea and scones, (we visited here last year on the Dales run), sun still shining so we sat outside. We left here for Settle and Long Preston taking at right turn into the Trough of Bowland and country lanes down to Clitheroe. A fuel stop here was to be the last stop of the day, deciding not to stop for ice cream at the Pendle View fisheries (another day perhaps) and we split up at Simister Island junction.



**Tea and Scones at Blindbeck Tearooms**

4 Hatters, no rain, no second man drop, no-one got lost or fell off and 170 miles covered.

Unfortunately no Photographer or Historian today hence why I have done the report.

Another grand day out.

Ross (Head Road Captain)

Thanks to Arthur for the photographs.