

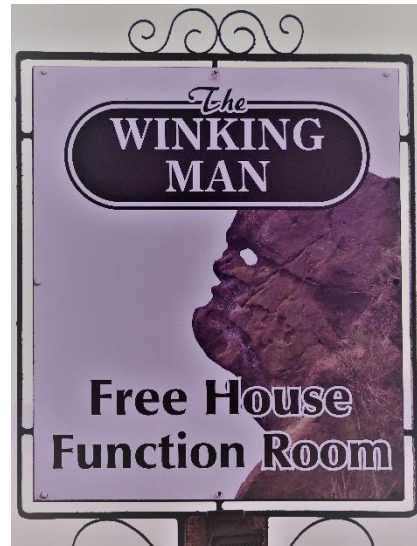
Thursday 10th August 2017

The Winking Man

An Evening Ride-out

Thursday 10th July 2017 saw the fifth and final scheduled evening ride-out for 2017 set off from the Decathlon car park in Stockport heading for the Winking Man at Upper Hulme in Staffordshire. Twelve bikes showed up for this one along with 5 pillion riders so a very good turnout for an evening run.

The group was led out by Head Road Captain Ross on a route which went via Bramhall and Hazel Grove where we joined the A6 towards Disley. Then it was onto the Buxton Old Road leading over the tops to Kettleshulme and climbing again before dropping down to Errwood Reservoir and following the River Goyt on a single track road to Derbyshire Bridge. The final climb up towards the Cat and Fiddle Pub was a bit tricky as the bright setting sun was shining straight into our eyes. But once we reached the top of the hill normal vision was resumed as we turned left onto the A537 heading towards Buxton. A right turn onto the A53 going in the direction of Leek eventually brought us to the Winking Man. Another member was waiting to meet us here bringing the total number of bikes up to thirteen.



The Winking Man Free House is situated in the Peak District National Park on the edge of the Staffordshire / Derbyshire border between Buxton and Leek. The pub takes its name from a small outcrop of rocks called Ramshaw Rocks where a face shape in the rocks seems to wink at you when you drive up the hill towards the pub.



There was time to relax here for a while to enjoy some tea, coffee or soft drinks before starting the return leg back towards Manchester. The route would take us over the infamous Cat and Fiddle road to Macclesfield then the Silk Road, A34 and M60 to Stockport, a distance of approximately 32 miles. An unexpected road closure on the Silk Road threatened to mess up the plans somewhat but eagle eyed John from Hull spotted the diversion signs to save the day, or was it night?

Thanks once again to Ross for organising this one and not forgetting Arthur who officiated at the rear of the group.