

## APPENDIX B: EARLY WHEELERS NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Unfortunately the early newspaper cuttings transcribed below were discovered in a scrap book and cannot be attributed by date or publication. They are included only to show typical events and rides and the manner in which they were reported.

### CYCLING.

#### Hereford and District Wheelers.

A most enjoyable day was spent by members of the Hereford and District Wheelers on Sunday. Leaving High Town at 9.50 a.m., they proceeded by way of the Ledbury Road via Dymock and Newent to Gloucester, where they paused in Parliament Street for a much needed lunch.

Passing to the left of a conical hill, known as Robinswood Hill, the party, after a warm climb, arrived at Painswick situated amid the charming scenery of the Cotswold Hills. Bearing to the left, they wended their way along quiet roads to Shepscomb, where bad luck fell to the lot of a prospective member, Mr P. Meredith, of Withington, in the shape of a punctured tyre. This was soon repaired and in a few minutes the wheelers were making their way to the summit of the renowned Birdlip Hill.

Arriving at the top, they called a halt to admire the magnificent view this height afforded. To the back of them lay the beautiful Cotswold Hills, tinted with the blossom and foliage of trees and shrubs, scented with wild flowers, and giving to the weary-traveller quiet and contentment. Stretching before them, in the warm sunshine, lay a large section of Gloucestershire, with the county town plainly discernible about eight miles away, while to the left, on the skyline, were the wooded hills of the Forest of Dean, and, to the right, the blurred outline of other hills. The descent of Birdlip Hill resulted in a puncture to the tyre of the accompanying tandem, and after a quick repair the cyclists continued to Gloucester, where they had tea, after which they returned home along the ever delightful road to Ross and Hereford, pausing at the Callow Hill to don capes, and arriving in High Town at 9 p.m.

The run for next Sunday is via Kington, New Radnor through the Radnor Hills to Llanvihangel-nant-Melan and Builth is one to be remembered for scenery. Cyclists who wish to participate in this run should be ready to start in High Town at 9 a.m.

It is possible that the Hereford Wheelers will hold a 25 miles time-trial at some later date, for members only, provided sufficient support is forthcoming. Those interested should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. C. Powell or join in a Club run and gather particulars. The annual subscription to the Club is five shillings

#### Cycling January 1931

#### Flowering of the Holy Thorn REMARKABLE PHENOMENON WITNESSED BY HEREFORDSHIRE CYCLISTS

I SHOULD be interested to hear if any of your readers have any knowledge of an event which enticed several

members of the Hereford and District Wheelers to embark recently upon a midnight adventure.

Situated in Little Birch, a few miles from Hereford, is a species of thorn bush or tree enjoying the peculiar reputation of breaking forth into blossom every Old Christmas Eve (January 6th) at midnight. This very unusual happening has led to its being named the Holy Thorn, and perhaps it is a significant fact that the adjoining parish should be called King's Thorn (some people maintain that the 'Thorn Tree' is in the latter parish).

Having acquired the details and whereabouts of the tree in question, a few kindred spirits and myself determined to seize the opportunity with a view to judging for ourselves, and with this object in mind we arranged to start at 11 p.m. The appointed night was extremely cold and foggy, but fortunately conditions improved slightly when we set off, until upon reaching our destination at 25 minutes before midnight the fog had completely lifted, leaving the moon to shine upon the object of our visit, the branches and twigs of which were covered in rime.

We were not the first upon the scene and a couple of people – who had begun their vigil some time previously – excitedly drew our attention to the buds, affirming that they had grown appreciably during their presence. They certainly held promise of blooming, and to our amazement the buds gradually burst, but not to such an extent as we should have liked.

Several other watchers who had arrived shortly before 12 o'clock included some local inhabitants, and they explained that intensely cold weather affected the tree somewhat, for in milder weather the blossom came out fully.

Sufficient, however, had taken place to convince us of its being at the very least a unique occurrence: therefore, we were afforded plenty of matter for speculation, and, notwithstanding the unpleasant fog encountered on the return journey, all agreed the ride had been well worth while. W. GAINES.

And a week later in the same publication:

#### The Holy Thorn Mystery.

I would like to suggest that the Holy Thorn, of your last week's correspondence is an offshoot of the noted Glastonbury Thorn.

This, as tradition tells us, is associated with the bringing of Christianity to England.

When Joseph of Arimathæa and his missionaries came over to England, somewhere about 61 A.D., he planted his staff in the ground, and thereupon it took root and flowered; this is now the Glastonbury Thorn.

Offshoots of this thorn, that flowers every year on Christmas Day, have been sent all over the world, so it is most likely that the thorn in Herefordshire has originated from the one at Glastonbury.

## IN THE WILDS OF TOWY Hereford Wheelers' Ambitious Run

From time to time, and for various reasons, the Hereford and District Wheelers have indulged in very ambitious or unusual runs. Last year there was the North Wales all-night ride; earlier this season "Carn Ricet" held sway, and last week-end the Towy Valley provided a challenge to the more enthusiastic members. This particular trip originated principally through the generosity of Mr. Frank Shubert (largely founder of the Club), who, as an inducement to explore this little frequented region, undertook to pay for the breakfasts of the successful performers.

Nine clubmen rose to the occasion and to them goes the satisfaction of a memorable trip through gorgeous scenery; the traversing of a route sufficiently lonely and difficult to provide a real spirit of adventure; and the success of a programme which extracted the maximum value for time expended.

Leaving High Town at 5 a.m., in darkness and drizzling rain, the party embarked on the first stage of fire journey – 53 miles to Llanwrtyd Wells, where breakfast awaited. Not until Whitney-on-Wye had been reached did daylight appear, and with it heavier rain. This continued to Builth, where a halt of a few minutes preceded the next 13 miles over the less familiar road to Llanwrtyd Wells. At Garth the riders in error became divided, some proceeding via Boulah and others through Llangammarch Wells. However, all arrived safely at about 9.30 a.m., to do justice to a late breakfast at the Llanwrtyd Hotel.

**OVER THE SHOULDER OF CEFN COCH** In now brilliant sunshine the party followed the road which accompanies the pretty little River Irfon Abergwesyn. Before the end of these very delightful five miles the mountains had closed in, and at the Grouse Inn (no longer licensed) the "rough stuff" began in earnest. Still travelling the Trfon, the track led upwards, and then descended to the level of the river at Llanerch-yrfa. Three fords follow in rapid succession, but by negotiating a footbridge and remaining on the opposite bank, these were avoided, and the track was rejoined further on. With bare green mountains towering on each side, the Wheelers set about climbing over the shoulder of Cefn Coch a laborious task indeed – to find the River Towy tumbling along the next valley. Leaving the even wilder Tregaron Track on the right, the riders descended cautiously. Even so, two tandems suffered "bursts." This settled the problem of lunch, and here, amid utter solitude, with high mountains and the rushing Towy for company, an al fresco meal was taken.

When about to resume, the party saw with surprise a lone lady cyclist approaching. It transpired that she was a member of the Swansea Wheelers, and was on an extended week-end tour. If one can judge by the ability with which she later negotiated the obstacles, and the fact of her travelling alone in such a secluded area, she is a young lady of exceptional courage and enthusiasm,

**THRILLS AND FUN IN PLENTY** Further along, the scenery became wilder and grander; the track plunged continuously and unashamedly through mountain streams. Sometimes, so-called bridges were provided, but the single planks of wood which generally comprised

them proved so precarious that an attempt through the water seemed preferable. All this supplied thrills and fun in plenty, and those members with cameras did not neglect the opportunity to record pictures for future amusement.

Wilder still, the scenery reached a stage far superior to more well-known and lauded beauty spots. The mountains now with rocky and splintered sides, closed in on the Towy, forming a gorge of indescribable beauty. For a time the track deserted the river, climbing once again to over 1,100 feet, and then dropping down to Ystrad-ffin, and another marvellous view. Here the Cribyn Du flows into the Towy, and, close at hand, though very inaccessible, is Twm Shon Catti's cave, the reputed lair of a legendary Welsh highwayman.

Another couple of miles brought a vastly improved road; more cultivated and open country, and, with a helpful gradient, wheels were soon spinning towards Llandovery. The town on the Towy ended the intermediate portion of nearly 30 miles, but there yet remained the 21 before Brecon and tea. Although now practically 4 o'clock, it was deemed advisable to devote half-an-hour to refreshment; a wise decision as it proved, for, after steadily surmounting the gradual incline to Trecastle, very fast riding followed through Sennybridge and all the way to Brecon which came in sight at approximately 5.30 p.m.

Here the riders were met by Mr E. S. Newman, of Hereford (vice-president of the Club), who, possessing a unique knowledge of this particular district through actual experience, took a keen interest in the run. The delightful tea which followed was due to his generosity, and fittingly rounded off a worthy, achievement.

A steady and uneventful return home brought the day's mileage up to 142.; a very creditable total since at least 15 miles were difficult track. Those taking part were Messrs. R Richards (captain), P. J. Meredith (vice-captain), H. W. Hiles, P. G. Jones, L. Powell, A. Evans V. Brown, S. Norman and W. Gaines

For this week a mystery run, under the guidance of Mr. P. G. Jones, has been arranged, leaving High Town on Sunday, at 10 a.m.

### HEREFORD AND DISTRICT WHEELERS.

On Sunday eight members, including two ladies, met in High Town for a run to the Clee Hills. Although the wind was cold, and the weather somewhat doubtful, they set off in high spirits to Leominster and Ludlow. On arriving at Ludlow it was found that a climb over the Clee Bills was impossible owing to the snow. The members of the party visited places of interest at Ludlow, but three members expressed their determination to climb the hills. They returned after two-and-a-half hours with their task unaccomplished. Perhaps the most interesting visit was that to the parish church of St. Lawrence which is the second biggest church in England and is bigger than some cathedrals

A stroll round the ruins of a castle, where once the Lords' President of the Marshes reigned supreme, brought the wheelers to the banks of the river Teme. After crossing the bridge, a slippery climb brought them to the top of a cliff overlooking the town. From here they obtained a magnificent view of the surrounding hills which were covered deeply with snow. After a brief halt a

move was made towards the well known Streatley House for tea.

After a good meal was partaken of, the members of the party were entertained with mouth-organ and "comb-and-paper" selections by Mr. Hands who seems to take a delight in making people's sides ache through laughing! But as all good things come to an end, so the wheelers had to take to the road once more for the journey home through Leominster, arriving in Town at 9 p.m., after a thoroughly enjoyable day. The run for next Sunday is to Symond's Yat leaving High Town at 9 a.m. All cyclists, of either sex, who would like to participate in the run will be heartily welcomed. Particulars can be obtained from Mr L. C. Powell. hon. secretary, 96, Cotterell Street Hereford.

### **CYCLING.**

#### **Hereford and District Wheelers**

On Sunday the Hereford Wheelers met in High Town at 9 a.m. for a run to Symonds Yat. Nine members turned up, including Miss G. Brown, a well-known cyclist who was one of the successful competitors in a "hundred miles in eight hours" trial last year and Miss Koessler and Mr. A. Poole, both new members of the club. At 9.15 a start was made for the Ross Road- only to be delayed in Bridge Street with a puncture in the back tyre of one of the ladies' machines. This however, was soon repaired, and in five minutes the wheelers were away. At the A.A. box at Hentland they turned off the main Ross road towards Whitchurch, which was reached about 11.30. The weather by this time had become dull and slight rain began to fall, so when Mrs James's house at Crocker's Ash was reached the wheelers turned their attentions to lunch,

Afterwards it was decided, owing to the weather, to abandon the climb to the Yat and go on to Monmouth instead, so capes were donned and they took to the road once more. After spending about an hour in Monmouth looking round some of the many interesting places to be found there, the Wheelers, seeing that the rain persisted retraced their wheel marks to Mrs. James's where, around a huge fire, they were left to amuse themselves as they wished. An excellent tea was served. after which the cyclists bade farewell to their host, and, as the rain had by now ceased. they packed their waterproofs and took the same route back home, after spending an enjoyable day despite the weather

The run for next Sunday is to the Golden Valley, starting from High Town at 9 a.m. The route will be through Pontrilas, Abbeydore (church visit) Dorstone and Hay having tea at Whitney with about fifteen miles run home afterwards.

It has been arranged that in future all routes will be displayed in the windows of Messrs Wallis, Eign Street, and Con's Cycle Stores, Widemarsh Street. Particulars are obtainable from the Hon. Sec. Mr. L. C. Powell 96; Cotterell Street, Hereford

### **CYCLING**

#### **Hereford and District Wheelers**

The Hereford and District Wheelers started at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday for a run through the Golden Valley, via Pontrilas, Vowchurch and Peterchurch to Dorstone where they were met by a number of the Abergavenny wheelers

who had arranged to meet them and accompany them on part of their run.

After lunching at the Pandy Inn they paid a visit to the village church, and proceeded via Hay to Glasburv, where, overlooking the charming river Wye they debated whether to make the run a little longer as the afternoon was yet quite young. It was decided, however, to continue the original run, so they mounted their machines and following close to the river arrived at the Stowe Inn, where they had an excellent tea, after which they departed for home arriving in High Town about 7.30 p.m. after a most enjoyable day amid picturesque villages and wonderful scenery in the Golden Valley,

The run for next Sunday (subject to alteration) is through Kingsland, Wigmore, Leintwardine, Ludlow (tea), and back home through Leominster, starting at 9 a.m. from the High Town. This is a short interesting run chosen for cyclists of either sex who would like to try touring as a hobby. Particulars concerning the Hereford and District Wheelers' Club or cycling generally may be obtained from the Hon Secretary, Mr. L. C. Powell. 96, Cotterell Street, Hereford.

### **CYCLING.**

#### **Hereford and District Wheelers.**

With a following wind, the members of the Hereford and District Wheelers made for the lower Wye Valley on Sunday, with Chepstow as the turning point. Leaving High Town at 9.30 a.m., they proceeded via Birch and Harewood End to Ross, where it was found necessary to adjust the brakes of the accompanying tandem. After a delay of half-an-hour they mounted their machines and took the road to Kerne Bridge where they were met by a cyclist from the Abergavenny Wheelers who had travelled several miles through heavy rain.

From Kerne Bridge a magnificent view of Goodrich Castle was obtained. Passing on through part of the Forest of Dean they came, after a long walk uphill, to Christchurch. Here they stopped for lunch. On the road again it was decided, owing to the delays, to "cut the run," and at St. Briavels they turned towards Tintern instead of going on to Chepstow. Thus instead of having to ride all the time they were able, after storing their machines, to have a ramble along the riverside and visit the ruins of Tintern Abbey, followed by music and singing, after which the cyclists rode in the direction of Monmouth. Here the visitor bade farewell and wended his way homeward to Abergavenny alone, while the rest of the party continued through Whitchurch to Hentland and by way of the main Ross road to Hereford, arriving in High Town at 8.45 p.m.

Although they had a glorious time amid wonderful scenery, they would have liked others to be along to see the charming valleys and hills, rivers and mountains, and interest in buildings and numerous other things that are to be found when a wheel.

The run for next Sunday is an ideal one for prospective members. Starting from High Town at 9 a.m. they proceed via Pontrilas, Pandy, Longtown to Craswell Abbey; then to Hay and home again. This is a run of about 45 miles, and was suggested by a lady member who will be the leader.

It is hoped that next Sunday will bring new cyclists into the ranks, and help the Hereford Club to hold its own in the cycling world as regards membership,

strength at inter-club meets, and rallies. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. L. C. Powell, 96, Cotterell Street, Hereford.

## **CYCLING.**

### **Hereford and District Wheelers**

A clear morning beautiful warm sunshine, dry roads and every evidence of a glorious summers day. Could anyone wish for a better day for cycling? In these conditions the Hereford and District Wheelers set out at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday for what proved to be a most delightful run to Bromyard Downs Worcester and Malvern Hills

A pause was made at Bromyard for two local cyclists, prospective members of the club, and after a climb of the Downs an easy descent was made to Knightford Bridge, where a halt was called for lunch

When the cyclists were once again ready for the road, the sky had darkened and a thunderstorm threatened but they were not troubled with rain. From here to Worcester the ladies took the lead and set a warm pace. A brief halt was made in Worcester, and under an overcast sky a move was made towards tile Malvern Hills. On this section of the journey, the Hereford Wheelers passed several other clubs from Birmingham and the district round about, and many hearty greetings and "cheries" were exchanged. At the summit of the British Camp the cyclists paused once again to pay attention to ice cream. The run down from the Camp was made via the Ridge-way, a narrow roadway, almost a lane, running through the ever delightful Eastnor Park, where, towards the Tewkesbury main road, a magnificent view of Eastnor Castle and the lake were obtained.

At the Somers Arms the cyclists fortified themselves with a much needed tea, and through Ledbury they wended their way homewards, arriving, in High Town at 8 p.m. Among those who attended the run were Messrs W.J. and Bert Badham of Bromyard, and T. Filer, of Abergavenny. For the next three weeks the runs have been fixed as follow: May 11th, St. Braivels and Chepstow (Wye Valley) 80 miles; 18th, Craswell Abbey (Black Mountains) 45 miles; 25th, Birdlip (Cheltenham and Stroud) 80 miles. All runs start at 9 a.m. and an invitation to cyclists of either sex to attend these runs is extended to anyone interested.

## **HEREFORD CYCLISTS.**

### **Annual Meeting of the Wheelers C C.**

The second annual meeting of Hereford and District Wheelers C.C. took place at the Black Swan Hotel Hereford, on Thursday evening of last week. There was a representative attendance with Mr A Gaines in the chair

Apologies regretting inability to be present were received from the President (Col. H.E. Patershall, D.S.O), Mr F.J. Parsons of Ross (Vice President) and several other members. The statement of accounts showed a sound financial position, and this. together with the auditor's report, was considered very satisfactory and formally adopted

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:- President, Col. H.E. Pateshall, D.S.O.; vice-presidents. Mr F.J. Parsons and Mr H. Minton; chairman, Mr. W. Gaines; hon. secretary, Mr. L. Powell; club captain and hon. treasurer Mr. A. Evans; vice-captain, Mr. S. Norman; auditor, Mr W Gaines; and

the Committee consisting of Messrs. J. Lambert, V. Brown, H. Hand, S. W. Williams and Miss G. Brown.

The question of club runs was next discussed, and a fixture list for the season, comprising of the most successful and attractive rides of the last two years, was eventually decided upon.

Exclusive of road events, the list is as follows:- March 9th, Radnor Forest (Whimble Ramble); March 16th, Brown' Clee Hill March 23rd, Llangorse Lake; March 30th, Elan Valley; April 6th, Redlake Valley and Offa's Dyke; April 13th, Ratlinghope to Church Stretton; Easter, Club Easter tour; April 27th, Wyre Forest and Cleobury Mortimer; May 4th, Brendon Hill, Tower and Stones; May 11th Trellech Stones, intern and the Buckstones; May 25th, Grwyne Fawr (picnic run); June 1st, Prince Llewellyn's Cave; Whitsun Club Whitsun tour; June 15<sup>th</sup>, Cantlin Cross and Clun Valley; June 29th, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth; July 6th, King Arthur's Caves (Whitchurch); July 13th, Radnor Forest (Llanfiliangel Rhydithon to Llanfihangel Nant Melan); July 20th, Barry Island; Bank Holiday, Club August tour; August 10th, The Mynydd Epynt (Brecon to Builth); August 17th, Penybont and the Teme Valley; August 24<sup>th</sup>, The Portway (Long Mynd); September 7th, Hope Bowdler and Much Wenlock; September 14th, Stow-on-the-Wold; September 21st, Newnham Ferry, the Slad and Birdlip; September 25th Club "100 in 8"; October 5th, St. Briavels and Chepstow; October 12th. Grwyne Fechan (picnic run); October 19th, Llyn Gwyn (The Bearded Lake); October 26th, Radnor Forest (Stone Circle Ramble).

The Black Swan Hotel still continues as headquarters of the Club and the subscription remains at 5s. per annum. The ceremony of awarding the medals to the successful competitors in last season's club events was performed by Mr. Herbert Minton, the popular vice-president of the Club. The complete list of honours gained being:- Club scratch 25 miles, fastest time, L. Powell; 2nd fastest, F Shubert; Club handicap, 25 miles, fastest time, F. Shubert, 2nd fastest, L Powell; First handicap, F. Shubert; Club handicap, 50 miles, fastest time, L Powell; 2nd fastest, A. Evans; First handicap, L. Powell; Club handicap, 100 miles, fastest time, F. Shubert, 2nd fastest L. Powell; First handicap, F. Shubert; Club 100 miles in 8 hours, L. Powell, Miss G. Brown, W. Gaines, S Norman, V. Brown, A. Evans and F. Shubert. Before the close of the meeting a small presentation was made to Mr. S. W. Williams. the hon. secretary for the past two years, as a mark of the members' esteem, and in appreciation of his valued work for the Club.

To-morrow (Sunday) the Wheelers' pay a visit to Brown Clee Hill (Ludlow), leaving the High Town at 9 a.m. Cyclists (of either sex) who are interested in the pastime, should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L., C. Powell. 96, Cotterell Street, Hereford, and participate in the run

## **OPENING RUN TO RADNOR FOREST**

The opening run of the club, was made on Sunday, and a most enjoyable day, was spent. Leaving High Town at 9.15 a.m., the route was via Moorhampton, Kington, to LLanfihangel-Nant-Melan, which was reached about noon. Here lunch was partaken of, and the party then proceeded on foot by way of a track over the Radnor Forest to Shepherd's Well. After a brief halt, the climb

was continued until the summit of the Whimble Hill was reached, where a glorious view of the surrounding hills was obtained.

It was now time to retrace steps to the Red Lion, where an excellent tea had been prepared for the hungry cyclists. The return journey home was commenced at 6.15 p.m. It had just started to rain, and capes had to be donned, but spirits were not damped, and an easy run home via Eardisley brought us back in High Town at 5.45 p.m.

### **Fay Webb not the second**

A FORMER official of Hereford Wheelers, reading the Evening News report of the club dinner recently, noticed a comment that Fay Webb was thought to be only the second woman member to have done 100 miles in eight hours.

But Mr W. Gaines, club secretary from 1932 to 1939, has a long memory and points out "at least four other ladies have completed this feat."

He names the following: Miss G. Brown (1929 and 30), Miss E. Baynham. Miss W. Hiles and Miss J. Sanders (1937).

"Later," adds Mr Gaines, "came Mrs Mary Meredith and finally, this season's splendid performer, Miss Fay Webb."

It seems the club had underestimated the extent of its own achievements.

### **CYCLING.**

#### **Hereford and District Wheelers.**

On Sunday, members of the Hereford and District Wheelers, including one lady member, left High Town at 9.30 a.m. for a visit to the Radnor Hills. Taking the road to Kington, they passed through Credenhill and Lyonshall, admiring the magnificent views of the Black Mountains and the valleys en route.

Passing through Kington and to the left of Bradnor Hill (1,239 feet above sea level), they came eventually to New Radnor, where, at the side of the road a water-tap supplied a refreshing drink. Then, following the little Summergil Brook, which runs alongside the road, the cyclists came, after a long climb up the valley, to Llanfihangel-nant -Melan. Here the hungry party stopped for lunch, and afterwards parked their machines, and went for a stroll over the hills to Water-break-its-neck – a beautiful waterfall, situated in the most scenic bit of country to be found in a long day's ride.

From the top of the hill overlooking the fall could be seen Black Mixen (1,190 feet), Great Rhos (2,166 feet), Bach Hill (2,002 feet), and to the right a wonderful panorama, of lowlands, basking in the warm sunshine.

A quick descent was made to the bottom of the falls, and with much slipping the party one by one climbed to the top. A thrilling climb in the extreme, for a false step would have meant a broken limb at least.

Returning to the inn they did full justice to the tea which awaited them, and mounting their machines, bade farewell to their hosts, and by way of New Radnor, Kington and Eardisley, returned home, after a most beautiful and interesting run, arriving in High Town at 9 p.m.

The arrangements for next Sunday are a picnic run to Craswall Abbey leaving High Town at 9 a.m. The

distance is about 45 miles. Those participating are asked to bring the necessary utensils for boiling water and making tea, as there will be no stops at tea-houses.

### **HEREFORD AND DISTRICT WHEELERS.**

The Hereford and District Wheelers on Sunday met for their usual run. They went via the Canon Pyon road to Kingsland and Wigmore. Here they visited ruins of the old castle built on a huge mound, which afforded an excellent view of the surrounding country. After a slippery descent they proceeded via Leintwardine to Ludlow, where they had an excellent tea at Streatley House, and then home through Leominster.

The wheelers will meet as usual tomorrow (Sunday) in High Town for a faster run to meet members of another club and join in a run together.

On the first Sunday after Easter there will be a short slow run to some interesting place not yet decided upon, but the route will be announced later.

### **HEREFORD WHEELERS.**

Sir, – The Hereford and District Wheelers have arranged a run for Sunday next. Starting from High Town at nine, they will proceed, via the Ross road to Hentland turning to the right at the A.A. Box to Whitchurch, where lunch may be taken.

The machines will be stored free of charge, and the cyclists will make their way on foot through delightful wooded country to King Arthur's Caves situated at the southern end of Great Doward, close to the Wye. After a thorough exploration of the caves, which are eight or nine in number, including a "dripping cave," the party will return to Crockers Ash for tea, and then wheel homewards over the route by which they came. Cyclists of either sex are invited to attend this run, which is one of the prettiest round Hereford, and is only 17 miles each way.

The question of food is for the cyclists to decide. We carry lunch and buy tea.

When the membership strength of the club is sufficient to enable two sections to be made, it will be more suited to all members, as some of the fast men would prefer a longer run, but are sacrificing speed and distance to oblige prospective members on short runs. Later in the year there will be inter-club runs and time trials, but not till sufficient support is forthcoming.

All particulars from, yours, etc.,

L. C. POWELL, Hon. Sec. 96, Cotterell Street, Hereford.

### **UNLUCKY THIRTEEN.**

#### **Hereford Wheelers' Serious Injury at Whitchurch.**

Thirteen proved an unlucky number for the members of the Hereford Wheelers Cycling on Sunday evening. Fourteen cyclists set out for a run to Symond's Yat, and as they were returning, one parted company with the rest, to go on to Abergavenny.

Mr. Roy Lloyd, of 57, St. Martins Street Hereford, who is evidently superstitious said, "That's done it now; now we are 13. One of us will get it." And he was the one!

Ten minutes later, as the cyclists were approaching the cross-roads at Whitchurch, a woman

pedestrian came out, from behind a bus and collided with Mr. Lloyd's machine. He was thrown under the wheels of a passing motorcycle combination, and received very serious injuries to his face

Accompanied by the Club secretary (Mr. L. C. Powell, of Hereford), and Miss Brown, another member, the injured man was taken by Mr. C. Curtis of the Crown Hotel, Whitchurch, to the Herefordshire General Hospital and detained.

Inquiry at the Hospital yesterday, (Tuesday) afternoon elicited the information that the injured man was progressing favourably and that his condition was improving.

### **HEREFORD WHEELERS. Sunday's Visit to the Forest of Dean.**

The Hereford and District Wheelers on Sunday spent a pleasant day in the forest of Dean

Although it looked much like rain at 9.30 a.m., a start was made from High Town to the Ross Road. Turning to the right at Hentland A.A. Box, the cyclists soon came to the river banks at Whitchurch. Here a halt was called to wait for two members from Abergavenny. Proceeding over the river bridge towards Symonds Yat Rock, the party rode between fern and gorse until the rough and steep road to the Yat made cycling impossible. They came eventually to the Yat Rock, which is well known as a magnificent view-point.

Taking the Road towards Coleford and turning to the right, into the shade of mighty oaks and beeches, they came to Staunton, where cycles were parked and a visit was paid to the Buckstone (formerly a "rocking" stone), perched on a wooded eminence over 900 feet high. The party returned to Staunton and, crossing the road, proceeded to find the Suckstone one of the largest masses of conglomerate in the world. Here much fun was experienced climbing to the top of the rock, the surface of which did not afford much foothold, and one member climbed like a monkey to the top of a near-by tree to take photographs.

Retracing their way through the pleasant wooded walks, the party made for the White Horse Hotel for a splendid tea.

As evening drew near, a start was made for home by way of the Fiddler's Elbow and Monmouth where the members from Abergavenny took their farewell, and, passing through Whitchurch and the main Ross road, arrived in High Town at 9 p.m.

The run for next Sunday is the Grwyne Fawr Valley, in the Black Mountains, where a huge dam holds back the water which supplies Abertillery – a pretty and interesting run for those who would like to participate. The start is from the High Town at 9 a.m. Further particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Mr. L. C. Powell, 96, Cotterell Street

### **CYCLING. Hereford and District Wheelers in Caves.**

The visit to King Arthur's Caves at Whitchurch on Sunday by members of the Hereford and District Wheelers proved to be a great success, At 9.45 a.m. the party of cyclists, including three lady members, started from High Town in a slight drizzling rain. The road to Whitchurch was covered in good time, and at Mrs. James's, at Crockers

Ash, they met one of the Abergavenny Wheelers and another Hereford member who had gone to Abergavenny to accompany him.

After storing their machines they turned their attentions to lunch. Afterwards, armed with capes and lamps, they set off in search of the caves. Although mud was plentiful, and the clouds hung low on the hills, the rain had stopped. The party, in high spirits, and after some exciting adventures on the slippery slopes of Great Doward, found themselves at the entrance to the caves. Lamps were lit and, guided by their powerful beams the party proceeded cautiously into the bowels of the earth to explore the passages therein – an eerie experience in the extreme, especially if one got a little way behind the rest.

In one of the passages where here it opens out into a huge cave, amid the flashes of light someone exclaimed, "Oh! there's a skull". There was silence, and hair stood on end until one or two of the bolder spirits moved forward with lamps. The "skull" which had stayed the party proved to be a broken colander, upside down. The cyclists breathed again, and the party moved forward to further adventures.

After a thorough exploration of the caves, they took to a pathway which led to a cave, through which water was dripping, and in the bed was pure, cold, crystal water to a depth of about two feet. Then on to a viewpoint overlooking the river Wye 200 feet below, but owing to the low-lying clouds it was impossible to see far either way. After a brief halt the cyclists made for the Dripping Wells, which lie close to the river bank, and after much fun descending the steep slippery banks of Lord's Wood, they came upon a most wonderful sight. Rocks rose sheer out of which hundreds of tiny streams of water poured onto the rocks below, worn smooth by the continuous fall, and a cave, out of the roof of which similar streams made their way. To enter the cave was like going through a thunder storm, but in about 10 yards it was fairly dry.

After exploring this cave, the cyclists made tracks once more for Mrs. James's, where an excellent tea awaited them, and then home by the route by which they came.

Among those present were Miss M. Pritchard and Mr. A. Prickett, both out for their first run this year. There will another run to these caves later in the summer.

### **CYCLING Hereford and District Wheelers.**

On Sunday the Hereford and District wheelers started at 9.30 a.m., accompanied by two lady members, on what proved to be a very successful and eventful run. With rather a strong head wind they took the road to Pontrilas and Pandy where they picked up two members from Abergavenny, and, turning to the right by way of a narrow winding road came to the village of Clodock, situated on the Monnow 408ft. above sea level.

Here the party stopped for lunch, after which they spent some time basking in the warm sunshine listening to the rushing of the waters, and breathing the pure air of the mountains. Resuming they proceeded through Longtown towards Craswell pausing en route to explore the ruins of a castle built on a huge mound, which afforded a magnificent view of the valley. After passing through a farmyard at Craswell the narrow road became a mountain track.

After a long walk, cycles were left and a start was made to find the ruins of Craswell Abbey. To get to these ruins the party had to descend a steep slippery bank cross the Monnow at the bottom and make an ascent of a similar bank the other side. The leaders were soon lost among the trees, and the main party kept in touch with each other by means of calls and whistles, while four of the party stayed at the top and preferred to be spectators. Those going at a slower pace took a wrong direction and the result was the leaders had returned to the waiting four while the rest were climbing the mountain quite a mile away. Signals across the valley recalled the wondering sheep, who commenced to retrace their steps, and after a run downhill, they were faced with the slippery climb up the other side.

After a short rest, a start was made for Hay, the party pausing many times to admire the uninterrupted view of hilltops and valleys. On emerging from the valley between Hay Bluff and Cefn Hill there lay exposed to view a magnificent panorama of the Wye Valley with Hay town nestling at the foot of Cusop Hill, and the Radnor hills, forming a background. The ride down through Cusop Dingle was very thrilling, and in some places a little dangerous, but Hay was reached without mishap. A search was made for a place where, the hungry cyclists could get tea, but it was found necessary to continue to Whitney-on-Wye, where, at the Stowe Inn their wants were supplied.

The cyclists being once again fortified, took the journey home by the main Hay road, and favoured by a following wind, reached High Town about 8-15 p.m.

The run next Sunday is to Gloucester, Birdlip, Cheltenham and back to Gloucester for tea then home through Ross.

A hearty welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join the club, and participate in the run. A start will be made from High Town at 9 a.m.