

Introductory/Slower Training Ride. Cub reporter Chris C reports.

Once upon an October Thursday evening, Fox, Bat and Owl were enjoying a cordial conversation as they walked to their hostelry of choice, the Sweaty Armpit near Macclesfield, looking forward to their customary thimblefuls of dandelion and burdock cordial. Suddenly, with a sound like rushing waters, a fearsome seven-headed beast flashed through the gloaming, each head with a dreadful single eye blazing like fire into the darkness. "What the fox was that?" said Fox, trembling.

"I didn't see anything," said Bat.

"Well, Batman," said Owl, "you wouldn't, would you?" before adding kindly, "they were going jolly fast. That was the Introductory/Slower training ride of the Macclesfield Wheelers Cycling Club and I reckon that by the time they get back to Siddington crossroads they'll have averaged 16.9 miles per hour and are on target to summit at 16.6. I only got a glimpse but that multi-headed beast looked to me like Chris I, Chris C, Karen, Annick, Phil, Moray and old Mr Members. And each terrible eye saw us, too."

"Wow Owly," said Bat. "You're awfully clever. Much cleverer than them. Don't they know that this is our manor? We need to scare them away."

"Well, I tried sitting in the road the other week," replied Owl. "But they keep coming back."

"What we need," said Fox "is someone big and stripy to jump them. That'll teach 'em."

Just then they were joined by Badger. "But we don't want to teach 'em", replied Badger. "We want to learn 'em - learn 'em, learn 'em! And what's more, we're going to do it, too!"

With thanks to the Book of Revelation and Kenneth Graham's 'The Wind in the Willows'.