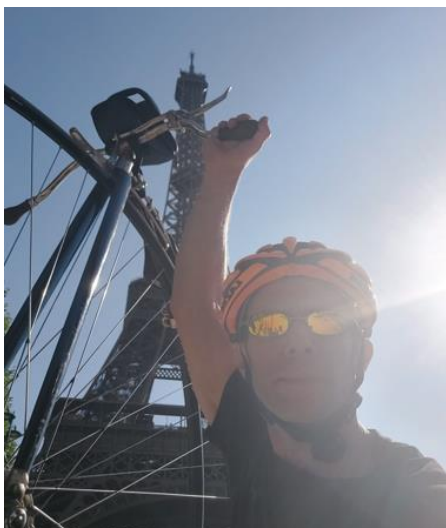


PARIS TO LONDON ON ORDINARIES TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINARY



The Pickwick Cycling Club and the French Velocipedistes Club decided to celebrate the anniversary of the Ordinary bicycle by the ride from Paris to London in 2023. The French appeared to be far more enthusiastic than the Brits with only 4 Brits brave enough to tackle it. I decided that I would get sponsorship for the ride for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, for obvious reasons after mum was diagnosed with this horrible disease. Rather than do the ride on a modern, repro, penny farthing I decided to use one of my originals, a 54" Dan Rudge dating back to 1888. Obviously, it was treated to new bearings and a thorough overhaul before attempting the ride. Interestingly enough the four original machines caused the least mechanical problems. A couple of the repro machines were virtually destroyed.



The start was the Eiffel Tower and the French TV were in attendance. There were six of us in the British contingent, four riders and two team back up. The French contingent was considerably larger and we all were accompanied throughout the French section by various cycle clubs who helped manage the traffic.

Along the route we were welcomed by the mayors of the communities and fed and watered at Civic ceremonies. It was very popular with schools and they had a lot of school children lining the route all of whom wanted to sit on a penny, of course. This appeared to be the main difference between the two Countries, the French people embraced the whole concept and made the riders so welcome wherever we were.

I did have a slight accident right at the start but no harm done and the handlebars were soon straightened out. (Excuse the my French 😊)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lttIZf154F8>

French part of the journey 26 to 29 June



The itinerary for the ride through France was;
Monday - Paris to Villarceaux
Tuesday - Villarceaux to Forges-les-Eaux
Wednesday - Forge-les-Eaux to Dieppe
Thursday - Dieppe to Newhaven



English part of the journey started Friday 30 June

When we arrived at Newhaven there was a short stop whilst the bicycles were off loaded and then we were off to the first nights stop at Missing Link Glamping. It was not actually confirmed if this location was chosen as a fitting name or because there was a brewery on site. We were joined here by another British Penny rider.

Vive le Grand Bi ! Friday 30th June
Day 5 West Hoathly to Tower Bridge
44.4 miles, 70 kms 539 m ascent

Location	Road	Miles	Kms	Time in	Time out	Stop	Comment
Missing Link Camping	Seisfield Road	0			8:00		Ready for the ride to London!
Turners Hill	B 2028	2.5	4	8:15			
The Curious Pig in the Parlour	Effingham Road	5.8	9.3	8:40			
The Bell, Outwood	Outwood Lane	9.2	14.7	9:15	9:25	10	Regroup and drinks
Bletchingley		12.7	20.3	10:00	10:10	10	Regroup and drinks
Farthing Downs	Ditches Lane	18	28.8	11:00	11:20	20	Regroup and drinks
Coulsden	Chipstead Valley Rd	20	32	11:30			
Oaks Park Cafe	Croydon Lane, SM7 3BA	22	35.2	12:00	13:00	60	lunch and refreshments
Carlshilton	Acre Lane on Sustrans 20	25	40	13:15			
Mitcham	Wandle Trail - S 20	26.5	42.4	13:30			
Earlfield	Sustrans 20	32	51.2	14:15	14:25	10	Regroup and drinks
Wandsworth Bridge		35	56	14:45			
Battersea Bridge	Embankment	36.6	58.6	15:15			
Albert Bridge	Embankment	36.8	58.9	15:20			
Chelsea Bridge	Embankment	37.6	60.1	15:30	15:40	10	Regroup and drinks
Vauxhall Bridge	Embankment	38.6	61.8	15:45			
Lambeth Bridge	Embankment	39	62.4	15:50			
Houses of Parliament		39.5	63.2	16:00	16:15	15	Photos
Buckingham Palace		40	64	16:25	16:35	10	Photos
Trafalgar Square		41	65.6	16:45	16:55	10	Photos
Whitehall	Barracks	41.5	66.4	17:00	17:10	10	Photos
Waterloo Bridge		42	67.2	17:15			
London Bridge	Embankment	43.5	69.6	17:30			
The Tower of London		44.4	71	18:00			... and finish!

The British part of the ride was kept to cycle paths as much as possible as the traffic, especially into London was not good. It was a Friday afternoon after all. POET's day for those that know. In fact, one of the French riders was hit by a car but luckily, he was not badly hurt. We visited all the tourist spots in London and caused a lot of photo opportunities for the tourists.



To illustrate the difference between France and the UK, in France we had press and TV coverage but in London all we had was a jobsworth of a security guard shouting that we couldn't ride the Pennies outside the Tower of London. He went off with a flea in his ear delivered rapidly by mum and the French took no notice anyway. He was lucky they didn't burn his hut down 😊. One of the French riders demonstrated Penny trick riding, outside the Tower Hotel, much to the delight of the tourists and diners in the restaurants there.

So far, I have raised well over £3,200 with money still coming in. I would like to thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for your generous donations to this worthwhile charity. There is also information on;

<https://www.pcrf.org.uk/news/penny-farthing-challenge/>

Myself and another Brit rider (Doug) in front of Tower Bridge at the finish, 18.15 on Friday 30th June 2023



Running repairs but the bicycle is 135 years old.

