

Out and about

Following the success of the cycle ride in the spring issue, we are remaining in the saddle but, this time, on a shorter route to the north of Woking Town Centre with plenty of watering holes along the way.

The ride will be perfect for the forthcoming summer months, although stretches – such as the ford at Penny Pot – may remain wet for some time after rainfall. Long spells of dry weather may cause some of the ground to be bumpier than usual.

Key facts

Start/finish: Brewery Road Car Park, Woking (near the A320/A3046 junction).

Distance: approximately 10.4 kms (6.5 miles).

Time: Allow two hours, or more if stopping for refreshment en route.

Type of ride: Easy to moderate, flat in general but with some gradual climbs. Some pathways and the towpath can be narrow in places, and the surface is generally uneven.

Please note: Although the ride mainly follows public bridleways and footpaths, some of the land you will cross may be private. Please follow the Country Code and respect the privacy of local residents. Expect to encounter pedestrians, horse-riders and dog-walkers. Be prepared to dismount if the path is busy.

Parts of the Basingstoke Canal and Horsell Common have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by English Nature in recognition of their importance for nature conservation. Please take your litter home and help to preserve them by staying on marked paths.



The route

1. Leave the car park on the towpath, heading west (to your right as you face the canal). Follow to Kiln Bridge in St Johns village.



The canal bridges that you pass by on this route are typical of the time the canal was built, such as at St Johns Flight. Kiln Bridge, however, was one of the first that had to be rebuilt to cope with the popularity of motorised vehicles – considerable traffic would have passed over here going to Inkerman Barracks, where the housing estate is today.

2. Leave the canal just in front of Kiln Bridge and turn immediately right into Robin Hood Road. Follow to the crossing over Amstel Way and cross with care. Continue along Robin Hood Road, passing (or stopping at) the pub of the same name, before bearing left at the fork to arrive at Anchor Hill.

3. Turn left with care and take the first right (after the parade of shops) into Barley Mow Lane, passing Waterers Park on your right.

Key

- Roads
- Route
- Parking
- Canal



The Basingstoke Canal Authority, based at the visitor centre in Mytchett, manages the maintenance and protection of the canal and its wildlife. Its work is funded jointly by the borough councils through which the waterway passes.

4. At the end of this narrow lane bear right into Chobham Road where, soon after you see the turning to Barrs Lane on your right, there is a bridleway sign to your left going up a rough track.

5. Join the bridleway and continue through the woods for 500 metres, turning left at the first bridleway junction, then right at the next. Continue on the narrow (unmade) path through the woods, avoiding the golf course.

6. After a break in the path, bear right at the fork to arrive at Scotts Grove Road shortly after.

7. After 500 metres, turn left into Lovelands Lane, cross the ford, and continue to the T-junction with Pennypot Lane. Turn right here.

In the village itself, you can get refreshments at The Sun Inn or Blubeckers restaurant in the High Street to your right. The Sun dates from the late 17th/early 18th century and Blubeckers (the White Hart) was built mid 16th century. If you go through the High Street and turn left at the roundabout you will also find the Frascati restaurant on your left. Alternatively, continue along the route a few more minutes and the Castle Grove pub can be found on your right.

If you want to stop here for food or drink, Horsell boasts four public houses, three of which are in the High Street – The Cricketers, The Crown and The Red Lion. The fourth – The Plough – can be found towards the end of South Road (third turning on your left).

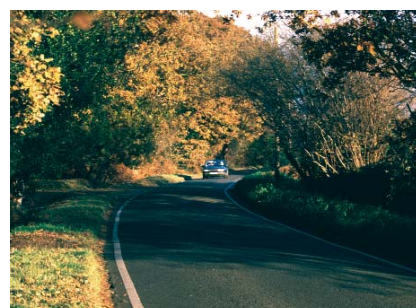
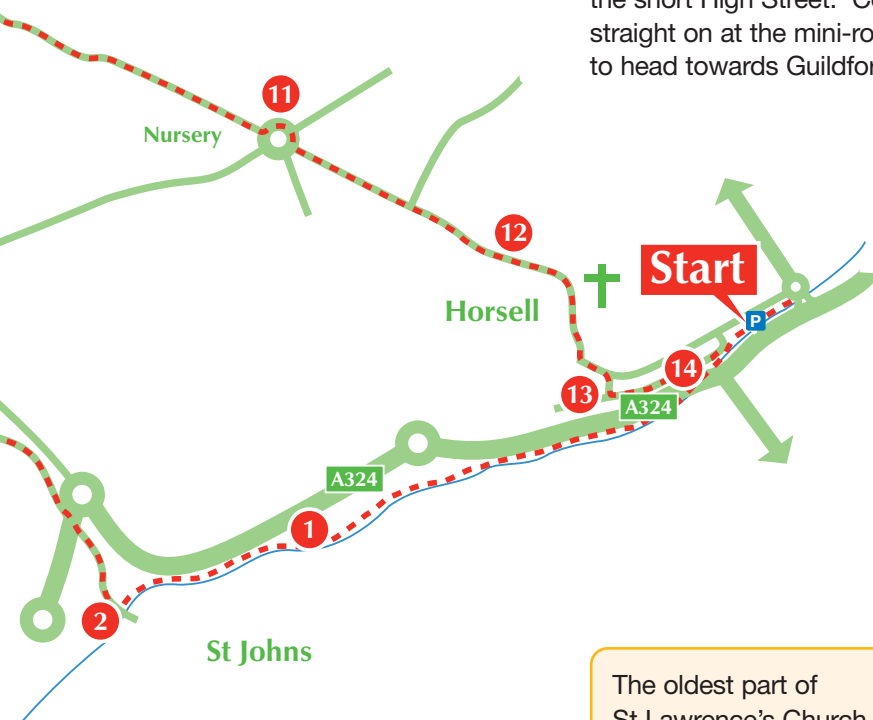
9. Turn to the right and go through the short High Street. Continue straight on at the mini-roundabout, to head towards Guildford Road.

12. Follow the High Street over Church Hill (taking care as it's quite narrow here) and, as the road bears left, turn right into Arthur's Bridge Road.

13. Take the first left into Horsell Moor. Towards the last of the houses there is a pathway you can join to go back onto the towpath.

14. Turn left here and cycle back a short distance back to your starting point.

Chobham



8. Follow this lane along its twists and turns until, at the end, you turn right into Vicarage Road. A short distance further will bring you to a roundabout in Chobham village.

The oldest part of St Lawrence's Church in Chobham High Street dates from early in the 12th century, with additions being made up to the 15th century. A new chancel and north aisle were also added in Victorian times.

10. Follow this country road with care for 1.5 kms, passing the RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre, before soon turning left into Carthouse Lane.

11. Follow this road to the roundabout at the end, before taking the second exit towards Horsell Village High Street.

Easy cycle rides

Like the idea of getting back on your bike?

The Woking Cycle Users' Group has organised a series of easy cycle rides to help you keep fit this summer. Starting from Woking Leisure Centre (by the tree near the children's playground), the rides will take place every third Sunday of the month – the next two being 15 July and 19 August. The group meets at 1.50pm for a 2pm start. Designed for people not used to riding any distance, routes will be 10 to 15 miles long and take two to two and a half hours.

No need to book a space – just turn up on the day.

If you want to know more, just phone or text Ian Wright on **07969 506906** or email **iankwright@hotmail.com**

For more information about Woking Cycle Users' Group and other activities and events, visit the Borough's community website at **www.windowonwoking.org.uk**