

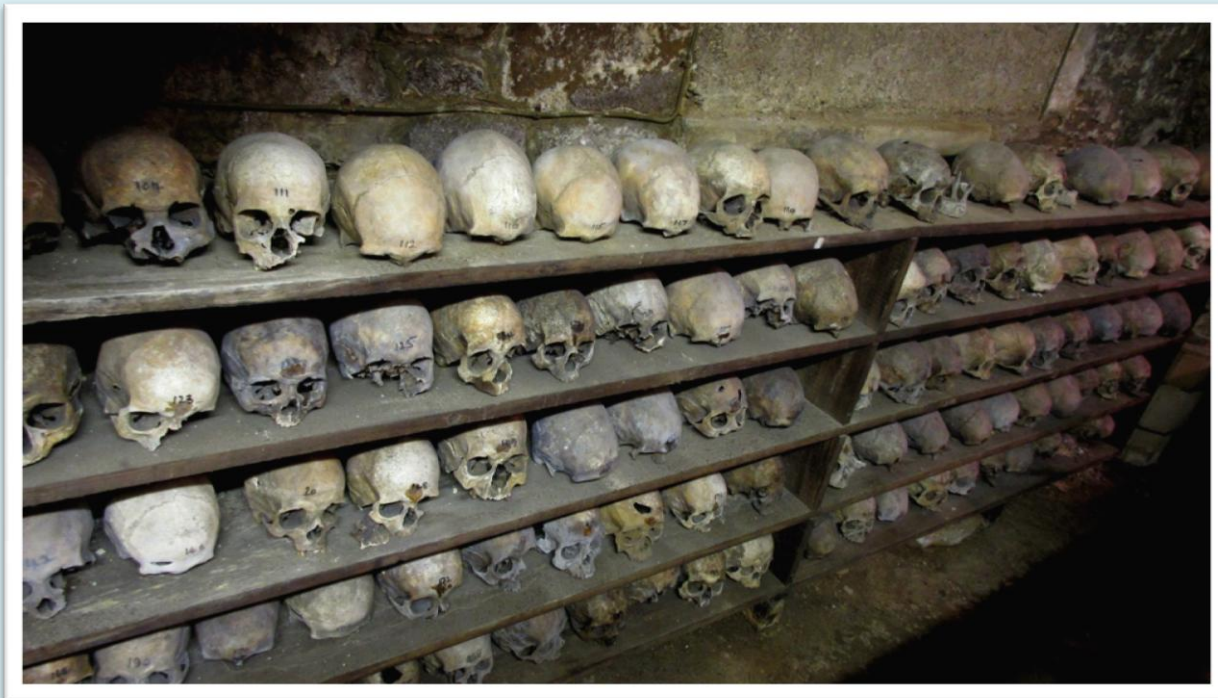
Boughton House Run. – (from the HUBBUB – CTC Northampton section magazine - December 1981)

Sunday, 13th September 1981 and the start of another club run, this time to Boughton House, the Northamptonshire home of the Duke of Buccleuch. We pedalled off around 9.15 a.m., the weather dry and sunny, but with the usual equipment needed for an outing in the British Isles; wet weather kit, lights, spare inner tubes, puncture repair kits, tools, water bottles, flasks and adequate food for the day. Just in case!

After picking Thelma up at Kingsthorpe, we took the Welford Road out of town and then turned right in Brampton. We turned left at the next junction and rode up the hill into Brixworth. Here we pulled off the road for a minute or two for a quick munch and drink. Our route continued through the villages of Scaldwell, Draughton (a small village not much visited) and on to Rothwell where we stopped and sat on the seats near to the church for elevenses. This church has some very old bones and skulls in its crypt.



Rothwell Crypt in 1888



Rothwell Crypt in 2015

When we had finished our elevens, we said goodbye to Cliff Tremaine, who had ridden with us as far as Rothwell. 12 of us pedalled off, winding our way through the back streets of Rothwell to miss a hill. The next village we came to was Geddington and we rode past one of the remaining Queen Eleanor crosses. Finally, we arrived at the entrance gate to the grounds of Boughton House at approximately 12.15p.m..

As the entrance gate to the grounds was locked, Mel bravely volunteered to climb the side of the wall. I lifted his bike over the wooden gate to him and he quickly sped off up the drive to the House to warn them of our arrival. I half expected to see him set upon and devoured by a pack of hungry alsation dogs. Fortunately Mel returned safely within a few minutes plus the key to let us in and with instructions from the house to ride up the drive without disturbing the gravel. What a Job!

Boughton House, near Kettering, was built between 1450 and 1700 and is one of the great houses of Europe. It has celebrated art treasures of every kind and one of the world's finest armouries.

Myself, Thelma, Jean, Mel, Simon, Pete, David, Darren, Dougie, Nigel, Paul and Mark sat in the Newly decorated stable block and ate our sandwiches. We were able to buy tea, coffee and snacks. After dinner we decided to take the nature trail around the grounds. Led by Mel, we set off round the lily pond, where everyone had their picture taken. Next we went into the kitchen garden and looked at the large display of vegetables, pot plants, colourful chrysanthemums and greenhouses. Lastly, we visited the gift shop to make our purchases and left for home at approximately 2 O'clock.



CTC Northampton outside the entrance of Boughton House in 1981, ready to cycle back home.

We came back through Grafton Underwood, Barton Seagrave, Isham and stopped on the green at Orlingbury for a rest and drink. After that, we carried on through Sywell and Overstone to town.

54 miles had been travelled and road discipline had been maintained by all.

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