

In 2006 two D.A. Members, *Max Scott* and *John Cutler* produced a Kettering *Map for Cyclists* for the council. The 1st Edition is Pictured above.

DOWNYOURWAY



Northamptonshire & North Bucks

We want to publish your local group's favourite route. Contact the editor to find out what's

Max Scott describes an annual 100km road ride on rolling lanes

orthamptonshire is a place you may pass through on the train or M1, but it's well worth visiting with a bike – as the many cyclists who came to the Birthday Rides in 1990 and 2002 could confirm. Quiet, undulating countryside with attractive villages and historic small towns make it ideal for touring.

Northampton and North
Buckinghamshire DA (NNBDA)
spans two CTC regions: mainly
the East Midlands but also the
South East. Being in the centre
of England, we are able to enjoy
rides further afield into the flat
lands of Cambridgeshire, the
Eastern Cotswolds or the unspoilt
lanes and gated roads of East
Leicestershire and Rutland.

NNBDA has four sections:
Milton Keynes, Northampton,
Kettering and Wellingborough/
East Northants. The first two have
their own websites and these,
together with Kettering, organise
a varied programme of regular
weekend rides, camping and
hostelling weekends and social
evenings. Kettering also run
regular Tuesday morning easypaced rides throughout the year.

Last year two DA members produced a Kettering Map for

Cyclists. Designed to show the cycle friendliness of every road or bridleway in the district, the map was supported by Kettering Borough Council and other organisations. We're very proud of it and positive feedback has been received locally and nationally.

NNBDA organises a number of DATC events. This year we are promoting two new ones: one a memorial to Guy Barber, a member who died in 2005; the other – below – a 100km event first run in 2006 as a 'retro ride' especially (but not exclusively) for pre-1980 machines.

RETRO VETERAN CYCLES 100K

The start and finish are a few miles south of Northampton. Salcey Forest is notable for its treetop walk. The forest is soon left behind as you follow the route through to Ashton and across the busy A508 to Stoke Bruerne, by the Grand Union Canal. If you are in touring mode the canal museum here is well worth a visit. From Stoke Bruerne, the route runs through Whittlewood Forest on tree lined lanes to Deanshanger, a sprawling village strangely covered at one time in red dust from an iron

oxide factory – now closed. At Passenham you pass the church of St Guthlac and over the River Great Ouse into Buckinghamshire.

There are a couple of miles of unavoidable urban sprawl to negotiate through Stony Stratford, famed as originator of the cock and bull story (after two pubs in the town) and Old Wolverton. Then you emerge into the countryside again at Haversham.

Through Newport Pagnell, you head towards North Crawley. Between the villages of Newton Blossomville and Turvey you pass into Bedfordshire and follow the meandering Ouse to Harrold, where there's a café in the pleasant country park. After the village you follow the west bank of the Ouse through Lavendon and into Olney, once the home of the poet William Cowper, and now a Sunday afternoon attraction for the day-trippers from Milton Keynes.

Our route only skirts the town before passing through the pretty village of Weston Underwood, leaving the river behind at Gayhurst, where the Regency church is worth a small diversion. From Hanslope it is just a short run back to the Salcey Forest café.

Northamptonshire's gated roads and lanes are quiet and undulating



FACT FILE: RETRO VETERAN CYCLES 100KM

DISTANCE: Slightly less than 100km (60 miles) TERRAIN: Rolling but not too strenuous MAP: OS Landranger 152 and 153 WHEN: 17th June 2007 ACCESS Train stations at either Milton Keynes or Northampton. By road approx 4 miles from M1 junction 15 ACCOMMODATION YHA at Bradwell, Milton Keynes north NNBDA SECRETARY: Max Scott, tel: 01536 712507, maxscott@trivelo.freeserve.co.uk

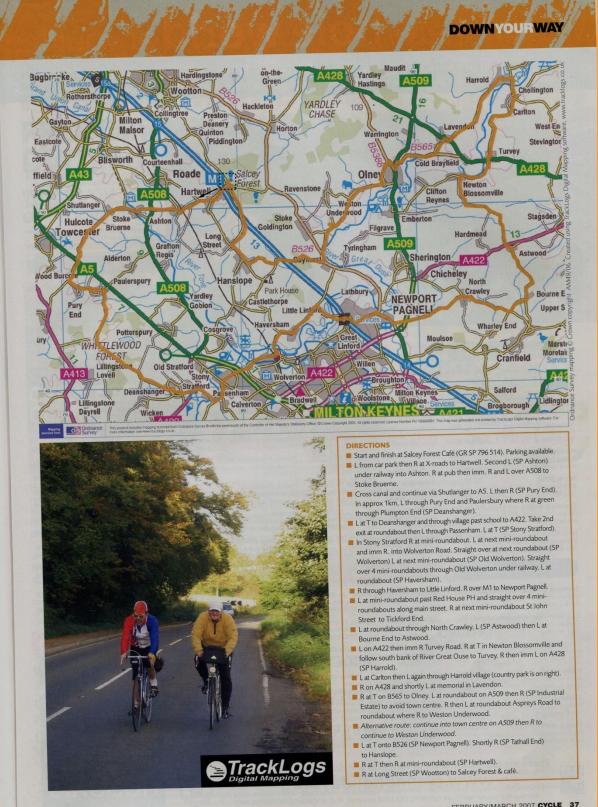
CTC Kettering





Max Scott on his Tricycle.

Retro Veteran Cycles 100K Map and Directions





Start of the Retro Veterans Cycles 100KM/Three Counties 100KM from Salcey Forest in 2015

