

AHC Welcome to Drive IT Day 26th April 2015.

Dave and Angela Colwell

About 35 miles around East Sussex and the Sussex Coast starting in Horam and ending at the Filching Motor Museum passing numerous view points en route.

Please note that there may be significant volumes of pedal cyclist on almost any part of this route and some of the roads are narrow with passing places. Also be aware that the route has warnings regarding the presence of deer.

From the Lakeside Café return to the main road and turn right onto the A267 then immediately left onto Horebeech Lane. Continue on for about 3 miles through Marle Green and onto Grove Hill before turning left onto Cinderford Lane. Continue on Cinderford Lane until the T junction with Cowbeech Road. Turn right then immediately left signed to Hurstmonceux. At the roundabout in Hurstmonceux with the Woolpack Inn on the right turn left onto the A271 toward Hastings. Continue on the A271 through Windmill Hill and then onto the A269 signed to Bexhill.

(Hurstmonceux (Wooded Hill) is noted for the Castle which was the home of the royal Greenwich Observatory for many years and for the local industry of Trug Making. Trugs are a wooden basket made from split willow boards in a Ash or Chestnut frame. There are still local trug makers in business today.)

Continue on toward Bexhill through Ninfield and then onto Sidley.

(Standard Hill (on the A269) to the West of Ninfield is supposed to be the place that William the Conqueror placed his flag after the Battle of Hastings. Ninfield also appeared in an early edition of The Goon Show.)

At the end of the shops in Sidley turn right onto Buxton Drive. (Note that the A269 road is closed further on and it is difficult if not impossible, to turn around at if you pass the turn to Buxton Drive.) Continue on Buxton Drive then left into Woodsgate Park.

Continue onto St Georges Avenue then into Crowmere Avenue and left into Barrack Road.

At the end of Barrack Road turn right onto the B2182 Holliers Hill.

Continue on the B2182 crossing over the railway by Bexhill Railway Station and onto the 'T' Junction and turn right onto the De La Warr Parade.

Continue on the B2182 past the De La Warr Pavillion on the Left Hand Side.

This road is part of the original Grand Prix Course. Continue to follow the B2182 taking the first exit at the roundabout along West Parade following the shore. Continue on the B2182 turning inland at Cooden. At the roundabout with the A259 take the first exit toward Eastbourne.

(Bexhill was the location for the first motor race in the United Kingdom, in May 1902. Signs at the town's outskirts have the text 'Birthplace of British Motor Racing' appended below the town's name. The Bexhill 100 Festival of Motoring, held on Bexhill's seafront, celebrated this important milestone in motoring history from 1990 until 2002.

The De La Warr Pavilion, brainchild of the ninth Earl De La Warr, opened in 1935 as one of the earliest examples of Modern architecture in a major British public building. During the Second World War, Bexhill was named as a point to attack as part of Operation Sea Lion by Nazi Germany).

Follow the A259, crossing the southern part of Pevensey Marsh, to the next roundabout and take the second exit. Do not take the A27. Follow the road to Pevensey Village and on past the walls of Pevensey Castle, do not turn left to Pevensey Bay. At the next roundabout turn left and cross the railway at West Ham level crossing. Continue on this road taken on the left.

(Pevensey is situated on a spur of sand and clay, about 10 metres above sea level. In Roman times this spur was a peninsula that projected into a tidal lagoon and marshes. A small river, Pevensey Haven, runs along the north side of the peninsula and would originally have discharged into the lagoon, but is now largely silted up. The lagoon extended inland as far north as Hailsham and eastwards to Hooe. With the effect of longshore drift this large bay was gradually cut off from the sea by shingle, so that today's marshes are all that remain behind the shingle beach.

The marshes, known as the Pevensey Levels, cover an area of around 47 miles²)

At the next roundabout take the first exit onto the B2104 and continue on this road to the next roundabout and take the second exit onto Princess Road. At the next roundabout take the third exit onto Royal Parade. Continue on Royal Parade, which then becomes Marine Parade and then becomes Grand Parade as you pass the Eastbourne Pier. Continue on this road, which becomes the B2103, passing the Guest Houses, Hotels and gardens and at the end of the Esplanade, start the climb to Beachy Head.

Take care at the 'Give Way' as the B2103 merges with Beachy Head Road and continue to climb taking the next left turn which is Beachy head Road. Continue on

over the headland past the Beachy Head Hotel on the right and then past Bell Tout on the left. Note there are various small car parks along this stretch affording wonderful views of the Downs and Coast but they are 'Pay and Display'!

(The name Beachy Head appears as 'Beauchef' in 1274, and was 'Beaucheif' in 1317, becoming consistently Beachy Head by 1724, and has nothing to do with the beach. Instead it is a corruption of the original French words meaning "beautiful headland" (beau chef).

In 1929 Eastbourne bought 4,000 acres (16 km²) of land surrounding Beachy Head to save it from development at a cost of about £100,000.

There are an estimated 20 deaths by suicide a year at Beachy Head. The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team conducts regular day and evening patrols of the area in attempts to locate and stop potential jumpers.)

Follow the road down into Birling Gap, then turn inland and continue on to East Dean. At the junction with the A259 turn left and follow the road to the top of Friston Hill and take the next right turn to Jevington and Polegate. Follow this road for about 4 miles and the entrance to the Filching Motor Museum will be found on the right.