

Lancashire and Cumbria Group – Regional Round-Up March 2021

Here we are into another ‘Lockdown’ with socialising very restricted. However, that hasn’t prevented the group getting out and about and making the most of the few periods of bright weather we’ve had this year. Rain, frost, snow and ice seriously curtailed the activities of members in the early part of the year, and even on the dry days we’d find there would be a bitterly cold wind to contend with. Were we ever going to get out? The answer came with a few bright spells of sunny weather. It was still cold, but having the sun on your back was a welcoming feeling and certainly lifted our spirits.

So, where did we get to and how did we manage to ‘socialise’ during the lockdown? I’ll answer the second part of that first. We have managed to keep in touch as best we can using email, but mainly using WhatsApp. Couples in the group post pictures on the various threads we have with a sentence or two on where they have been. It is encouraging to see, especially on those days when you aren’t quite sure whether to chance the weather. Seeing other couples getting out and about puts any doubts you have about the weather to the back of your mind and out you get – wearing our new snoods of course!

Anne and John have been back out cycling on the Fylde visiting Wrea Green, Lowther Gardens and cycling along the prom at Blackpool, even reporting a sighting of that eccentric British pastime – swimming in the sea on March 1st! Hayley and Simon too have been on their tandem cycling along the prom at Blackpool on a chilly March morning. John and Janice were out further east in Lancashire cycling in the Longridge Fell, Burnholme Bridge and Browsholme Hall area. Linda and Paul put their new snoods to the test on a chilly ride to Sunderland Point while we have been cycling round and about in south Cumbria, with one particularly chilly ride into Longsleddale. Ruth has been out on her solo cycling around Clougha Fell while Rosemary and Peter enjoyed a ride in the March sunshine around Gamblesby in the Eden Valley.

The next couple of months may see us re-establish the ‘mini’ group rides that we did for a period last year, but all that is dependent on the latest Government guidance. There’s a lot to look forward to.

Stephen Webb, Lancashire and Cumbria Group