

Wet, Wind Swept & Westerly

What a busy few days I've had with the Butlins weekend, then 3 days at work. I spent my birthday, revising because tomorrow was the first of my exams this year. That over and with a huge sigh of relief I headed off to visit who used to be the furthest west members of Centre 14. Dawn & Dave live in the most beautiful North Devon Village on the edge of the moors.

I set off mid day after my exam in drizzle (Ha who said clear spells) only stopping for fuel I landed 6.5 hours later. Having been rained on hailed on and blown from pillar to post all the way even on the 25% incline hills. At that point I wasn't smiling and across the moors the mist (cloud what ever you call it) was so low I had trouble seeing the road. When I did take my eyes from the road, I could only see as far as the magical sheep, they appeared and then disappeared while managing to stand still in this awful weather. I was so close to home, no use in stopping, I had to keep going, but I'd truly had enough of a challenge. I arrived safe, but soggy and standing in a way that looked like I was frozen to my bike seat still. After the ride I'd just had I now had prune looking dyed fingers, was a shivering wreck and I had to be helped out of my clothes (not for the first time but for completely different reasons). Poor Dawn having just got home from work was ejected from the bathroom immediately. So a hot shower and into warm PJs with a laced hot chocolate was the order of the day and my bike had been unpacked and locked away for me. A welcome from the family I was so looking forward to. The Murrays are a great bunch with kids chipping in to help and giving up their beds for me. Dawn made a marvellous birthday cake & special dinner for me (and the rest of the family). My idea was to stay a few days enjoying the company and surroundings it was absolutely brilliant, stunning. I even had an impromptu display from HM

Coastguard on cliff rescues it was great. My visit complete I'd then move on to Al & Annys new home in Wales (even Westerer than the Murrays now).

When you're on a bike, weather conditions should be considered, and the weather did it's very best to thwart my plans, but I'd got there. Tuesday night & all day Wednesday the wind howled a gooden, we had rain & snow too, so did Annya & Al. Snow was affecting Wales, Scotland and the high ground in England. After careful consideration by the grownups we'd come up with a good plan, Dave's offer to strap 2x4 planks to my feet for ski's had been politely turned down. So on Thursday morning I called to say, so sorry but trip postponed to Al & Annya. I said my thanks and goodbyes to TEAM MURRAY and left early. The clouds were looming and it was a race home just in front of the clouds all the way home, but I made it.

I had a brilliant time with Dawn and Dave and know that if I'd have gotten Al & Annys I'd of had the same there too. Role on the summer, when all C14 from where ever they are will be together again.

CHIMP XXXX

