

## Cycle Group annual Trip 2026 - Hawes

Our trip this year was to [Hawes](#), a lovely village in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and home to Wensleydale Cheese. Our group stayed in a mixture of the local pubs, caravan park and cottage, with some spouses being non cyclists. Hawes's name comes from the Old Norse, meaning "pass between mountains", which is very appropriate considering the amount of hills the cyclists had to climb!

We arrived on a Monday for a half day shorter ride of about 12 miles, past Semerwater, the second largest natural lake in Yorkshire. Peter had very bad luck in that his derailleur cable broke near the start and no local cycle shop could fix it quickly. Hence he was a real hero as he drove back to Preston to pick up his other road bike and used this the following days. Note that he was the only rider who did not use an ebike for these very beautiful although challenging rides so he gets another hero's medal. The following day we drove rather than cycled over Buttertubs Pass to start at the other side ( The road is locally noted as a challenging cycle climb and featured as the second, and highest of three categorised climbs in Stage One of the [2014 Tour de France](#) ). We then rode along the magnificent countryside of Swaledale and finally climbed up to the [Tan Hill Inn](#), the highest pub in the UK, for our lunch. (see photo). Then a wonderful descent back to the cars.

The following day was led by Tony N. who will be 92 this year, and, true to form, he chose the most challenging route with over 3700 feet of climbing. We stopped for a coffee at [Bolton Castle](#), where Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner for 6 months. Then up what seemed like a never ending climb to eventually get to Swaledale. Peter, accompanied by Dave B, decided to follow the ebike group more slowly as he was on pure leg power. There was even more climbing later in the ride but we finally arrived at the [Kings Arms in Askrigg](#), which was the Drovers Arms in the original BBC series of *All Creatures Great and Small*. There was no sign of the following duo and we were beginning to wonder whether to call out the local mountain rescue team, when they arrived full of beans and very cheerful about 45 minutes after us. The next day was very rainy, so we decided to call off the half day ride and drove home fitter and glowing!

PS. The reason that Nick Park chose *Wensleydale* cheese for the Wallace and Gromit series is that the name fits well with moving the mouth parts on the clay-like modelling material. It's been good publicity for this cheese and the non cyclists visited the [Wensleydale Creamery](#) to watch it being made and came away with lots of samples!

PPS. Buttertubs Pass is so called because there are limestone potholes where farmers would rest there on their way to market. During hot weather they would lower the butter they had produced into the potholes to keep it cool.



