

Rideout Reoprt
September 2012

Sat. 15th

Despite all the talk about the weather this year being a “disaster”, believe it or not, this was our **18th** spin !!

And that doesn't include Mark 1 and me having an extra two spins around Howth which *some* members didn't agree should be counted as “Official” rideouts !!

A good few members were not available for various reasons and that only left Gary, Mick, Mark2 and myself. Yes, incredibly the normally reliable “Laurel & Hardy” of the Group – Mark1 and Paul (you can make up your own minds which one is which !!!) – were both unavailable....and the Dubs weren't even playing!



[The Finglas Feckers](#)

As the forecast for Saturday was excellent, according to MetEireann anyway, we decided to take Mick up on his offer to bring us to his ancestral home on the shores of Lough Ree near Lanesborough in Longford. It's a fairly long spin there so we decided to meet early – at 9:00am – in Clonee. Then on Friday I got a text from Dermot saying himself and Claire might join us. They had only just gotten back from holidays (*yeah, I know, yet another holiday !!*) and were itching to go for a spin on the bike. But the early start doesn't suit Dermot so we compromised and arranged to meet for breakfast in the Greville Arms Hotel in Mullingar at 10:15. Incredibly, they arrived 2 minutes early just as the 4 of us had stopped outside the Hotel for a smoke.

After the usual good feed there, we got ready to head off again via Ballymahon and Lanesborough. We had gone through patches of drizzly rain so we decided to put on rain gear. Despite having two panniers, Mick had no pullups with him but Dermot loaned him a spare pair. Gary had two panniers AND a top box but no pullups with him either!! Mark2 had a sexy pair of blue pullups which he never took off the whole day afterwards (even when we were having coffee in Mick's brother's house and in the roasting heat of the Power Station) as we had all told him he looked great in them but that he had a “VPL” !!!!



Mark2's sexy blue pullups....

Mick took the lead and set a nice steady pace on the roller-coaster roads from Mullingar to Ballymahon. As in the case of the recent Carlingford spin when Dermot took the lead as he knew all the local roads, it was great to sit back and let Mick take the lead and show us the way. Unknown to the others, as well as a visit to his ancestral home, Mick had learned from the success of the "CRRG Mystery Spin" and had planned a surprise for the members. **(There is a fascinating story behind Mick's family settling in Lanesborough and I have included a short extract from my best-selling book on the subject at the end of this Rideout Report. There is talk of Hollywood making a film with Russel Crowe playing Mick).** Anyway, we soon arrived in Lanesborough and then went up the country lanes to Mick's old homestead. We had a walk around the fabulous lake but it was too choppy and windy to take the row-boat out on the lake. We had a look around the old farmhouse and Mick showed us his old bedroom which contained his old bed which had several notches on the headboard ! We then headed up the lane to Mick's brother, Richard and family, where we had tea and coffee and biscuits. The hospitality, humour and general "easy-going" way of life impressed all us Dubs but what surprised us was the way they take the absolute natural scenic beauty of where they live for granted. After a photo session for Facebook, Mick took us for the surprise spin. It was a tour of the massive peat-powered generating station where Richard worked. He took us up 8 floors and then some flights of stairs (Mark2 still refused to remove his blue pullups) to the viewing platform as well as on to the roof of the power station. We took some photos of the fabulous views and then had a tour of the plant and control room. The control room reminded me of Homer Simpson's place of work and Gary was like Dougal in Fr. Ted and had to be restrained from pushing the big red Alarm buttons.



View of Lanesborough and Lough Ree (with viewing platform on left)

It started to rain as we said our Goodbyes to Mick's brother and family and headed for home via Longford and Mullingar and Kinnegad. Dermot and Claire left us for Kells/Dundalk and then Mark2 managed to get by some heavy traffic due to road works leaving Mick, Gary and myself. We stopped for a quick coffee in Kinnegad before setting off for home.

It was another fabulous spin and the tour of Lough Ree power station was definitely worth it. It will definitely be a spin we will do again next year, maybe taking in a trip on the boat or some fishing on the lake? **Our thanks to Mick and his family for their hospitality.**

Brief Synopsis of the Ancestral History of the O'Shea's of lanesborough, Co. Longford

PROLOG; An important historical fact to note is that Ireland was not exempt from the slave-trade during the 17th and 18th centuries. As the Brits tried to rule Ireland and a few English noblemen held massive estates in Ireland, they sometimes used slave labour as the local peasants were far too lazy. Evidence of the ancestors of these slaves from Africa and South America can be seen in Ireland today and are especially common in Balbriggan, Galway and areas of Dublin.

Ancestry of the O'Shea's. The OSHEA-BO tribe of central America were a peaceful tribe living in a remote part of central America. In the 1640's, the Spanish slave-traders raided their village and herded them like cattle onto a specially designed steel ship which was towed behind the Spanish tall ship. The captives were chained together for transportation and sale in Southampton, England. But a terrible storm hit the armada as

they were heading to England and the ship towing the OSHEA-BO captives was blown off course. Seeking refuge from the storm, the captain spotted land and sailed up a large river until the steel ship broke free in high winds and hit rocks on the shore of a large lake. Research has revealed that they had actually reached Ireland and had sailed up the Shannon, eventually reaching Lough Ree. The local English Magistrate, Lord William Lane (founder of the town named after him - Lanesborough) was sent word of the landing and ordered a troop of militia to the area. They rounded up the captives and Lord Lane used them as slaves to farm his massive banana and rubber plantations in Longford. The rusted remains of the steel transport ship and the chains which bound its captives can still be seen today as it rests on the shores of the lake.

Now the climate in Ireland was beginning to turn colder and colder and wetter and wetter during the last decades of the 17th century. The banana trees and rubber trees were not suited to cold, damp conditions and began to die. The winter of 1653 was worst on record, with even the lake freezing by 12 to 15 inches thick. This was the last straw for Lord Lane and he deserted all his lands and returned to England, leaving the poor slaves to fend for themselves. The head of the OSHEABO tribe, MICK-A-Do, led them across the frozen lake to a large island which kept them sheltered and undiscovered for hundreds of years. They had brought whatever livestock had survived the harsh winter and farmed the land, keeping out of sight of the locals and English militia alike.

As is common in the Homo Sapiens species, their characteristics and skin tone began to adapt to their surroundings over the generations. Their skin tone turned from a dark brown to a pale white colour and the only tell-tale characteristics which are visible today are the big lips and the large nose through which their ancient ancestors used to thread a large bone. In the late 18th century, deciding that it was now safe to leave their island, MICK-JA-GER (meaning "Mick Big Lips") the descendant of the first leader, MICK-A-DO, led his tribe back to shore where they constructed a large wooden hut on the site of the current farmhouse. They soon picked up the language and changed their name to O'Shea to blend in with the locals. They were accepted by the locals and became "as Irish as the Irish themselves".

Many of the descendants of the OSHEABO tribe still live in the area around Lanesborough.

