



HALF-DAY RUN SAT 25TH JULY 2015

‘Bishops, Prime Ministers, Presidents and Landed Gentry’

Today’s route, is 48 miles long, and covers the Durham countryside and villages to the east of the A1. The route passes by the site of the castle where the powerful Prince Bishops once ruled, a pub where a prime minister entertained a president, and a stately home where a Marquis’s wife ran off with a pop star.

The run starts at The Old Mill Pub, Metal Bridge and finishes at Shincliffe Garden Centre. It is on easy roads and should take about 2hrs, so feel free to stop and browse the display boards etc. You will pass plenty of village pubs on the way. The only toilets we could find were at the Services you pass on the A689 after 24.6 miles.

Instructions have been abbreviated as follows:

- TL Turn left
- TR Turn right
- SO Straight on
- T Tee junction
- X Cross Roads

Mileage	Instruction	Signs & Comments
Zero trip	Turn right on leaving The Old Mill car park.	
0.1	TL	West Cornforth, Thislington
0.4	SO at roundabout (2 nd exit)	Mainsford, Bishop Middleham
1.1	SO at roundabout (2 nd exit)	Mainsford, Bishop Middleham
2.3	SO at X	Mainsford, Bishop Middleham
2.6	Bear left in Mainsford	
3.3	Entering Bishop Middleham take first TR into Broadoaks	<i>Just past 30mph sign</i>
3.4	Information board and walk to Castle mound	<i>At top of hill on right</i>

County Durham is unique, in that for many centuries it was virtually an independent state ruled not by the King, but by powerful ‘**Prince Bishops**’, who were more or less ‘Kings of County Durham’. They built their fortified manor house or castle in the 12th century on a steep rise just south of here. From here, until the end of the 14th century, they ruled like kings, and could raise their own armies, mint their own coins and levy their own taxes. The castle is now just a grassy mound. In more recent times Bishop Middleham had its own brewery (see below).

3.6	Carry on down Church St and TR at T	<i>Continue thru village</i>
3.7	Information board on right re brewing history	
4.0	TR at T	Trimdon, Sedgfield, Fishburn
4.7	TR then TL at staggered X roads	Trimdon, Fishburn
6.1	In Fishburn SO at X	Hartlepool
6.5	TR at T	Wolviston, Hartlepool, Teeside
8.0	On left hand bend TR into minor road towards Sedgfield	<i>No sign</i>
9.7	TL at T on entering Sedgfield	
9.8	TR at T	<i>Sedgfield High St (Dun Cow pub on right)</i>

The Dun Cow pub is famous for two things. Firstly, in 2003 UK **Prime Minister** Tony Blair entertained US **President** George W Bush to lunch here. They had fish and chips and mushy peas, and both drank non-alcoholic lager. The security operation for this visit is said to have cost £1million. Secondly, but of no less importance, my brother had his wedding reception in the Dun Cow in June 1979. It was snowing! Plenty of alcohol was consumed. The security operation for this event cost £3-81p.

There is a good tea room at No 4 the High Street.

10.0	TL at T (Blue sign)	Hardwick Park, Racecourse
10.5	Leaving Sedgefield go over A689, TL immediately	Racecourse, Gt Stainton
12.4	TL at T	Gt Stainton, Stillington
12.7	TL	Bishopton, Stillington
15.1	SO at X	Bishopton
15.9	TL at T towards Bishopton	<i>No sign</i>
	Carry on through Bishopton, and Redmarshall, into Carlton	
18.4	TL on right hand bend in Carlton village (in front of Methodist Church)	Thorpe Thewles, Hartlepool
19.6	TR at T in Thorpe Thewles	<i>Wynyard Rd</i>
19.8	Cross A177: TR then TL (staggered cross roads)	Wolviston
21.3	Towards top of hill, sudden TL into Wynyard Park*	<i>'Golden Gates' entrance</i>
0	Zero trip meter on entering park	

The Golden Gates were designed in the early 19th century by the architect Benjamin Wyatt who was also responsible for the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane and the Duke of Wellington's house at Stratfield Saye.

Wynyard Hall was the seat of the **Marquis of Londonderry**, but he could not afford the upkeep and had to sell in 1987 to miner's son Sir John Hall who could! Lady Londonderry married Georgie Fame (she said Yeh! Yeh!) in 1972, after having had one of his children while still married to the Marquis. In 1993 she committed suicide by jumping off the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

John Hall spent £4 million restoring Wynyard Hall, and then sold it for £8 million in 2002. It is now an upmarket hotel, but the Hall family still live there, and are planning a walled rose garden with 10,000 roses (Opening in August 2015).

The obelisk you pass on the right is a tribute to the **Duke of Wellington**, who visited the Hall after Waterloo. Another regular visitor to the Hall was the future **King Edward VII** who used to bring his mistress Mrs Alice Keppel (Camilla's great grandmother) here because he claimed "it is the only place I can get rumpty tumty without anyone batting an eyelid".

0.0	Carry straight on into the park, passing the entrance to Wynyard Hall on the left	
0.6	Bear right and follow the signs 'Exit A689/A19'	<i>Past cricket pavilion</i>

You will now pass through a part of the estate used to develop upmarket housing, where Duncan Ballantine lives and Kevin Keegan, Mick McCarthy and Alan Shearer all once lived.

0.9	Beware speed humps	
1.1	TL at T opposite large house	<i>Wellington Drive</i>
1.4	TR at T	<i>The Wynd</i>

* If for any reason Wynyard Park is closed carry on into Wolviston and join the A689 towards Hartlepool at the 3.0 mile mark.

2.1	TR at roundabout onto A689	Hartlepool, Middlesbrough
2.7	SO at roundabout A689	<i>middle lane</i>
3.0	SO at roundabout crossing over A19	Hartlepool A689
3.3	SO at roundabout	<i>Services on left</i>
3.6	SO at roundabout A689	Hartlepool
5.6	TL to Dalton Piercy (just after layby)	Quad Bike Track signed
8.2	TR at T	<i>Sign in grass Dalton Piercy</i>

Dalton Piercy was once a walled village with gates at either end, which were closed at night to prevent the cattle straying. There are still signs of the walls in the village today.

Joseph Yeal of Dalton Piercy died in 1808 aged 113, perhaps he got plenty of exercise from opening and closing the gates.

In 1983 a local man, James ‘The Fox’ Hutchinson, was captured in fields near Dalton Piercy after being on the run for 3 murders and a rape committed near Sheffield. However, most of the locals are friendly.

10.2	TL at X towards Elwick	<i>No sign</i>
11.5	TR in Elwick	A19 North and South
11.9	TL onto A19 South (then quickly move to outside lane ready for next turn)	
12.4	TR to Trimdon	Trimdon
14.9	TL at T	Trimdon Village <i>weight limit</i>
18.4	TR at X in Trimdon village onto B1278	Trimdon Grange, Wheatley Hill
18.5	TL (minor road downhill after 100yds)	Kelloe
19.3	TL at T	<i>No sign</i>
20.3	TL at T towards Quarrington Hill	<i>No sign</i>
21.5	SO at X in Quarrington Hill	Old Cassop, Bowburn
	Beware speed humps	<i>Good view on left</i>
23.1	TR at roundabout onto A688	Peterlee, Sherburn
24.2	TL at roundabout onto A181	Durham
24.8	Bear left onto B1198	Shincliffe, Durham
	Cross bridge over A1	
26.2	TR onto A177	Durham
26.2	Soon TL into Low Rd	Shincliffe Village, <i>Garden Centre signed</i>
26.4	At left curve in road TR into Hall Lane for Garden Centre	<i>Narrow entrance</i>
	Park in Garden Centre Car Park (We should be able to all park together at the bottom of the overflow car park on the grass, if not wet)	

Congratulations you’ve made it! Head for Brambles tea room inside the Garden Centre for tea, scones, ice cream etc. If the first room is busy there is a second big room at the back, or seating outside, weather permitting.

The easiest route back (to avoid having to go into Durham City) is to turn right on leaving the garden centre, drive through Shincliffe village and turn right onto the A177, which takes you back to join the A1 at Junction 61.

In an emergency phone Kevin Prosser on 07905 450277