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## Desford Lane Pedallers

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### Vintage Cycle Rally in Maxey



Sunday 9 April 2000 saw the Desford Lane Pedallers back in Maxey for their annual ride to celebrate their most senior member, Mr. Tom Young's birthday (90 years old on the day!).

After the successful stop-over last year for lunch and the welcome they received from villagers and pub-goers alike they decided to start and finish the ride from the Blue Bell pub, which acted as HQ for the day.

The ride this year, reputedly 23 miles, gave all those who completed it a hearty appetite for lunch. As usual many villagers turned out to cheer on the participants



One energetic cyclist mistakes Maxey's High Street for a Tour de France stage and winds it up on the last few hundred yards before lunch and a

well earned pint!

Apart from the High Wheelers taking part, such as a Coventry Machinist, a Hilman Herbert & Cooper, an Ariel, a Singer, a Humber and a Parr one of the country's finest examples of an early 'Boneshaker' machine was on display (see panel below).

Dating from around 1870/71 and thought to be manufactured by Muire of Wolverhampton this bike was actually owned by Tom Young himself over a period of 24 years. Such was Tom's enthusiasm for the machine that he managed to wear out the iron 'tyre' surrounding the wooden wheels.

Many experts believe this machine to be the only example of a bike being reshod in modern times. This was accomplished by heating the iron rim/tyre in a circular forge and placing it around the wooden wheel and cooling it rapidly to tighten into place. The grip was so tight that a slight warp was induced in one spoke. At least the iron 'tyre' won't come off in a hurry!



The oldest bike on display was this 'Boneshaker' from 1870/71, thought to have been built by Muire of Wolverhampton. It features a twist grip brake lever which activates a leather thong connected to the retardation device on the rear wheel. Note the foot rests above the front wheel, used mainly when going downhill. This is because the fixed pedal/wheel combination could reach considerable speeds!



More scenes from the day. Click on picture to see a full-size image.

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