

Join Lord Long Socks and Lady Bertie in a Basket, one of the members' dogs - as well as three penny farthings making a guest appearance in the peloton.

By OBSERVER REPORTER
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With names like Lord Long Socks, Lady Many Hats, Sir Sidney Purdey-Sureshot and Graf Maximilian Wilhelm Schlump, the members of the Bexhill Classic Cycle Group were always going to raise eyebrows.

But since its launch the group of cyclists has also become skilled at spreading smiles with their two-wheeled antics - not least at the weekend when they rode out for the first Tweed, Tea and Tiptle ride of the summer.

Organiser Ray Koyrn came up with the idea of bringing together like-minded vintage cycle enthusiasts five years ago and since then it has not only gone from strength to strength, but the group has become a much-loved part of life in Bexhill.

There were 17 costumed cyclists involved in last Sunday's ride - and the group's unofficial mascot the Rt Honorable Bertie in a Basket, one of the members' dogs - as well as three penny farthings making a guest appearance in the peloton.

Ray told the Observer: "The Classic Cycle Group is becoming a familiar sight in Bexhill now, and we often hear positive comments and gasps of



A trio of Penny Farthings and suitably attired riders

delight from people who come down to Bexhill hoping especially just to catch a glimpse of this curious nostalgic sight.

"It is very rewarding to see the smiles and expressions on the faces of passers-by, and to hear the excited shouts of children who are fascinated

by the antique machines and vintage-clad riders."

"Bexhill is a wonderful place to cycle and it is tremendous fun to get on a vintage cycle and pedal about. To be able to spread smiles at the same time is brilliant." New members are always

made to feel welcome - even those without a vintage bike - as long as they make the effort to enter the spirit of the club.

And they are quick to stress people shouldn't worry about being left behind on any of the regular rides. "The events are very gentle

family-orientated rides and suitable for the not-so-confident cyclist," explained Ray, "and we encourage any fun-loving cyclist to join us."

"All that we ask is that all signs of modernity are left behind at home for a few hours and an emphasis on tradition-

al bicycles and vintage attire is embraced."

Details of the group's forthcoming events and more details about how to get involved can be found online at www.classiccyclegroup.co.uk or on the Classic Cycle Group Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/TheClassicCycleGroup/.



The Mistress of Millinery - Lady Many Hats

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