

## C&NW CTC 80th Anniversary One-day Ride

### South Stack, Anglesey to Eureka, Wirral - 18th May 2019

Saturday morning on the day of the ride was glorious, not a drop of wind - we couldn't have picked a better day. Colin B and myself were the first to start the climb to South Stack when Janet J (The Link) passed us in her car; she reached the top, climbed out and started taking the first of many photos. Mark E arrived next as he had stopped overnight on a farm not too far from the start. A couple of minutes later Lowri and Steve J arrived.

After a photo shoot the first thing to sort out was where the first stop was going to be. As this was my fourth time riding the route I said the Avondale Café in Llangefni would be ok. This was agreed and the ride started.

No one had been in touch about joining us by the Travel Lodge, so on passing it at 8.25am we carried on, everyone enjoying the views across Penrhos Bay. The first twenty-four miles were uneventful except for the traffic, as four cars passed us on this stretch - so everyone took a turn on the front.



As we dropped down into Llangefni Janet was standing outside the café, camera at the ready. Everyone entered the café and the staff were very helpful by putting two tables together. It was in this café

that I received a nice surprise, the group had all decided that at our food stops I was not to pay for anything - they were going to pay! This small gesture meant a lot to me.



On leaving the café we had the one-way system out of **Llangefni** to navigate and then the first big climb up to **Penymynydd**. Again the roads were quiet until we reached **Menai Bridge**. We picked up the cycle path that would take us across the **Brittania Bridge** - and who did we see waiting for us but **Janet** and her camera.

We had a couple of steep climbs through **Bangor** then a steep descent saw us by the roundabout at **Llandygai**. There had been a road closure on the **Sustrans** route - on our route was a seriously steep climb at **Crymlyn** but the gods must have favoured us, as two weeks before, the ride **Sustrans** had opened up a track for cyclists and walkers.

**Martyn J** joined us here - the train was ten minutes late and because we didn't know he was coming we carried on. He caught up with us and rode as far as **Conwy** then went off on his own. The ride continued with superb views over the **Menai** towards **Anglesey**.

We dropped down from the hills and headed towards **Llanfairfechan**. As we neared the town **Janet** was waiting for us again, camera to hand. We all agreed that **Janet** was going to meet us at **Rhos-on-Sea** and ride with us to **Rhyl**. On we trundled until we reached the footbridge that would take us over the **A55** but **Steve** said there was an underpass - what he didn't say was there is a steep climb to get to it, so off we went onwards and upwards. On reaching the entrance we had to zigzag our way down, the only way to describe it is you felt you were cycling down a **Helter Skelter**. On the next stage we cycled along the



coastal path and stopped at **Conwy Marina** for a cup of tea and a gate stop where **Lowri** explained what the toilet doors in the ladies looked like (think mirrors, both sides!). Apart from the climb out of **Conwy** the rest of the coastal path was flat. We arrived at **Rhos-on-Sea** but had to wait a couple of minutes for Janet as she had gone too far down the sea front.

The next stop on the route was the **Café at Pensarn** - we should have met **Dave Matthews** here but he had decided to go ahead. We placed our orders for beans-on-toast or a full English and everyone relaxed to drink their tea or coffee and discuss the ride so far.

The ride continued along the sea front which was fairly empty considering how good the weather was until we reached **Rhyl** where it was time to say goodbye to **Janet** as she had to cycle back to **Rhos-on-Sea** to collect her car as later on she was picking her parents up from **Manchester Airport**.

The ride continued, skirting large sections of sand that covered the path until we reached the car park at the end of the sea front where we turned off to make our way through the golf course - this was going to be the last bit of flat until we turned for **Flint**.

It was here we said goodbye to **Steve** as he was going to road it to **Flint Station** and hopefully catch the train to **Shrewsbury**. If he missed that one he would have to cycle to **Chester Station**.

This next section of the ride I think is the hardest part as there is a lot of climbing. We cross over the main road, use a low gear up **Gronant Hill**, turn left and climb **Llanasa Road** and for the next eleven miles ride up and down **Whitford**, **Gorsod** and **Pant Asaph**. It was here that we had our final stop in the **Druid Inn**, tea, coffee and for **Colin** a pint. **Lowri** came back from the 'Ladies' and again told us about the strange doors in there (hinged down the middle!).

We now only had seventeen miles to finish, but like all rides there's a stinger in the tail and ours was in **Cefn Lane**, a short but steep climb, and I wasn't the only one who's back wheel slipped a few times. We crossed over the junction into **Lleprog Lane** and it was downhill all the way into **Flint**. We picked up the cycle path, passed the **Power Station**, over the roundabouts, passed the **College** cross the road up **Dock Road**, onto the **Greenway** and

over the **Railway Bridge** to pick up the **Welsh Road**. We were nearly there when **Lowri's** phone went off. We all stopped while she answered it.

It was Janet ,I don't know how she did but her parents flight was delayed so she drove to the **Tudor Rose** to photograph us finishing; we still had a couple of miles to go so it was arranged **Janet** would walk over to the **Eureka**. As we approached the **Eureka** we could see Janet with her camera at the ready. We posed for a photo shoot outside the **Eureka** then over to the **Tudor Rose** for a celebratory drink.



**Text by Terry D - Organiser and Route Planner**

**Photos by Janet J**