

Meadow Lea Café - 17th December 2017 (or Manley Mere as it turned out!)



The weather did not look promising in fact it was raining hard as we gathered in **Eureka**, and as you can see from the spray from the car in the photo, the roads were very wet - and that was the picture all the way.

As well as being wet they were also flooded making our ride difficult - nevertheless about twelve brave cyclists filed off in the direction of **Capenhurst**.

If the photo was a bit bigger you could see the absence of any smiles!

We set off to **Dunkirk** and via the **A5117 to Stoak**,. It was on this stretch on the road that we met the first floods - the fields to our left were all under water.

Janet, our leader for the ride wisely decided to shorten the route and go direct to **Meadow Lea Café** leaving out her interesting loop. When she contacted the café to advise them that we would arrive



one hour early, she was told that they were very busy and could not accommodate the group. So plan "B" was put into action and the ride redirected instead to **Manley Mere**.



There was no space problem there so when we arrived we were the only customers (I think).

On the way there on the **A56 Graham** had a very loud blow out, and since he did not carry a piece of old tyre, (a lesson to us all,

please note), **Janet** rode back to meet him with the necessary repair kit, we were all soon together again.

After lunch it was decided that we would ride back the shortest way along the **Greenway**.

Manley Mere Cafe

In spite of flood warnings on the **Greenway** off we went, all went well to start with but the absence

of any cycle traffic coming the other way gave a warning of what was to come - a long and deep flood at least up to the bottom bracket.

Unfortunately **Janet** hit some underwater obstruction and was thrown off her bike landing flat in the flood water. Apart from being very wet she also hurt her knee, but determinedly rode all the way back to **Heswall**. When I phoned her later, she told me there were no broken bones, no broken skin and she felt much better after a shower!

The remainder of the group stopped for refreshment at **Eureka** and to our surprise **Ann** kindly provided a plate of **mince pies**!



David Collinson

With Best Wishes to you all

