

Jemoleys Café, Penyffordd - 17th February 2019

Sunday's ride started at a very busy **Eureka** where the queue for coffee was tailing back towards the door! There were twenty of us waiting at the assembly point with fifteen wanting food at **Jemoleys** - we split roughly into two groups of ten with **John F** taking up various positions ahead and between the two with his camera ever handy (photos elsewhere on this page).



We headed down Woodbank passed the **airfields** to **Connahs Quay** and on to **Papermill Lane** where a few discarded some layers in preparation for the first hill (of the year for many!). This lane is not so much steep (gains 80m) as quite long; fortunately there are a few level(ish) sections to provide a bit of relief, followed by a stop at the top (bananas if available). On to

Northop and the **Green**. Not far up here **Andy's chain** decided to come apart - a link was produced (couldn't decide if it was for 9 or 10 gear) and with a bit of fiddling was attached. However, just as he was about to spin his bike over he realised that he'd neglected to thread the chain through the hangers - thus took it apart again this time remembering to complete the whole task; back on board - click, click, click, uh oh!



When cycling to the next junction to meet the rest of the group, there followed a discussion around links for 9 and 10 ring cassettes being different; **Richard** produced a link which he said was definitely 10 (needed); **Andy** was getting the hang of this now and had it fitted in minutes and with one "click" we were off! **Dave W's group** had passed us whilst all this was going on so we carried on through **Soughton** with a nice run down to **Mold** before the rise in to **Buckley** where we passed **Dave's group** (they'd stopped a couple of times) and a descent in to **Penyffordd**. 23 miles.



The sun had made an appearance for the last few miles so everyone was thoroughly warm and in need of a break. The café had planned to take orders at the table but we're an anarchic bunch so orders were placed at the bar! Tea and coffee came quite fast but they struggled to get the food out (small kitchen) however it was worth waiting for as quality was good - nice staff too. The kitchen staff were duly thanked when they came out to see what all the noise was about!

Dave's group had ordered another round of coffees so my group started for home past the station and immediately left along **Stryt Isa** (Anyone translate?) - lovely road then over to **Lower Mountain Rd** and again nice descent to **Lower Kinnerton, Bretton** and **Ferry Bridge**. No jellybabies but the rain did catch us here and by **Sealand Road** was pouring down; I took off my helmet to add my rain cap but struggled to get my gloves back on - wet hands! By the time we got to **Blacon** it had stopped, a chance meeting with **John Wilkie** (in training for a 1700 km ride!), through **Saughall** to dry roads and **Eureka** - 17 miles.

I saw **Graham and Margaret** at **Eureka**; having seen them at 10am and suggested that they may have been there all day! Denied of course! Some of the second group joined us there.



I'm out of cycling for a few weeks now but will be around for the odd catch up - happy cycling!

Text Chris L

Photos Chris L and John F