

White Owl, Thurstaston - 9th December 2018

Sunday's ride took us to [The White Owl at Thurstaston](#) - we'd had some pretty wild and wet weather in the previous week when I planned this ride telling the chef we could have 5, 10, 15 or no riders (this was Wednesday in torrential rain!). As it turned out there were twenty of us with seventeen partaking of the excellent chips and butties (straight into our top five cafe/pubs).

We split in to two groups at [Two Mills](#) but as more riders joined us the second group split again - everyone preferring the latter group. [Ian](#) and [Margaret](#) joined us at [Burton](#), the weather was pretty good and we had fun dodging the puddles - I had planned to go down the missing link but thought better of it; so to [Willaston](#) to collect [Brian](#) and [Sylvia](#) before heading to [Raby Mere](#) - collecting [David](#) and [Sue](#) on the way!

We had a brief stop here before the long slog up to [Thornton Hough](#), thence via [Gayton](#) and the even longer slog from [Lower Heswall](#) to the [A540](#). [Pensby](#) and [Irby](#) came quickly and there we were before 12pm (I'd told them to expect us around 12.30!).

Service was excellent, tables already reserved and I must mention the chips (thick and salty) again.... - the sun even had the audacity to shine whilst we were in there. However, as we emerged it started to drizzle and never really let up after that.

People were already heading off on their own routes home but most of us headed back up the cycle path by the [A540](#) towards [Heswall](#) although I did miss out the worst bits of [Oaklands Road](#) (very messy!) reversing most of the outward ride. I left off at [The Runnel](#) with [Brian](#) and [Sylvia](#) whose car was on the route. [Paul](#) had a puncture at [Burton](#), said he was OK to fix, [Janet](#) carried on to the [Gift Café](#) at [Puddington](#) and was later joined by Paul who'd used his two tubes up and had to call a friend to collect - gashed tyre was the issue! Hope you didn't get too wet!

That's definitely a venue for the future - £6 a head too!

Text and Photos by Chris L

