

Two Mills Christmas Ride - Old Ma's Coffee Shop, 13th December 2009



When I checked out the route on a very dirty bike the day before the ride, the weather was very nice. I should have taken the camera with me. It's very difficult to lead a ride on the day and at the same time capture the action.

The start of the ride - in need of a clean

Unfortunately, a rear puncture just before arriving at the café to meet the rest of the group was close enough to the Two Mills junction to walk the bike over and get help.

Andy and Peter were soon changing the tube on that very dirty bike.



How many men does it take ...

Alan supervised but it took John and a pair of pliers to return the back wheel securely to its rightful place.

Time was ticking by and people were getting cold.



No tyre levers needed

Brian agreed to take those not involved in the repair off towards Capenhurst. There was very heavy traffic heading towards Cheshire Oaks. Who chose this route so close to Christmas? The church at Thornton le-Moors is under going a massive facelift. But we couldn't stop for photos – time was passing quickly.

At our roadside stop outside Tarvin, Andy and Peter turned off for home. Was it something we said?! We continued our ride via Oscroft, Burton, Hoofield and Huxley and arrived at Old Ma's at 12.30pm just as Seimens CC was departing. Glennys was already in situ having ridden from home to meet up with us. She had called at the Cheshire Ice Cream Farm first – it was empty (apart from a group of cyclists). Mmm!!

We were invited by Old Ma's to use one of their benches in the sun to eat our own sandwiches. Thirty minutes, later those inside were still waiting for their grub. Annabel and Barry waited so long they had to have words with the staff in the end.



Annabel waits patiently beside Alan

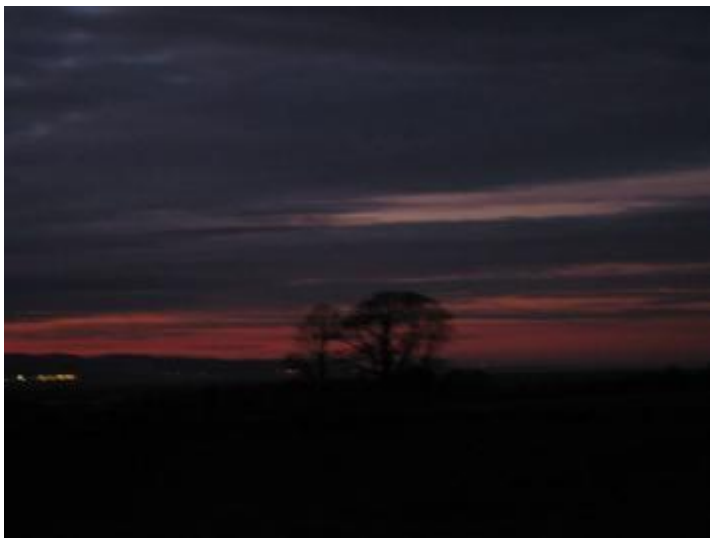


Plain and basic

Glennys's hot tip of the day – buy a pair of magician's gloves. It's easier to get your hands into thicker gloves and keeps them warmer!

Magician's gloves

Post lunch the planned route was diverted and instead we rode through Saughton, Christleton, Pipers Ash and joined Route 5 via a bridle path - bit of muttering – it was rough! I couldn't persuade them onto the canal towpath and the hill at Backford. We stayed on R5 right through to Sealand. Then the race was on for the café. We made it for 3.30pm



We came out of the café to a cracking sunset – most of it gone by the time I passed through Burton and Puddington to take a photo.

Sunset from Ness

I had to make do with various Christmas lights.

I can't report the exact distance since my cycle computer is not fully functional. I have a new one in the cupboard since last year – must find time to fit it. The number of riders out varied – we started with ten and picked up three. A few had to get back early.

The grotto





Tasteful in Puddington

Christmas cyclists in Neston

Another good ride for
Two Mills!



Janet Gregory