

Bunbury and Tanygrisiau - 5th June 2019

From Paul Mills:

As they say in politics "events dear sir events" so I went on the alternative ride to Bunbury in the second group of twelve(?) ably led by Dave W, past the white tree which did not reveal its secret this time and the only notable occurrence was meeting a tractor near the end about to drag out a small hatchback buried into a ditch. Whilst uneventful on a 'CoCo' day it was more than made up for by the general craic within the group.

From Brian J

Twenty-two out altogether in two groups led by myself and Dave W. Lunch at the pub was different (!) - thought I had stumbled into 'ped' (?) at a Victoria Wood sketch at one point... We stopped at the "white tree" by Pipers Ash but no one able to shed light on the identity of the insect responsible. We cycled from home (69 miles) and stayed dry all day.

Comment from Chris S...

I had no idea what a "CoCo" day was but spoke to Paul today and he tells me it is a "Coats On, Coats Off" day I also don't know what a "ped" is and didn't manage to ask Brian. However I can offer some information about the "white tree" which mystified them both. The cobwebs at Pipers Ash were made by Spindle Ermine Moths www.cheshire-live.co.uk/.../huge-moth-webs ... (Copy this link if you are interested (ed.))

From Chris S...

I sat in the Country Cooks Café enjoying a bacon sandwich and drinking my tea. Outside the rain trickled down. "Looks like you are 'Billy no mates' today" said the proprietor. I wondered if I would do the ride if no one else came, or catch up with some jobs at my caravan nearby.



Then Brian L appeared and I watched him unloading his e-bike. My decision was made. Soon Peter and Mari were there too, to complete the group. No other Wednesday Riders chose the 'A'

ride option for a ride over the mountains to **Tanygrisiau**. Maybe it was the early start, the hills, or the drive to the start point, I don't know.



The drizzle at the start dampened our spirits a little, but we had an interesting ride along the track behind **Llyn Celyn** looking at the relics of bygone quarrying mostly returned to nature now. We crossed the busy **A4212** road and after negotiating some road works set off up the morning's climb. A road blockage stopped us before long. The road workers advised that the hot tarmac they were applying to a new cattle

grid would burst our tyres if we rode over it! They were very friendly and when I pointed out one of our group had a heavy e-bike, one of them picked it up as if it was a child's toy and carried it over.

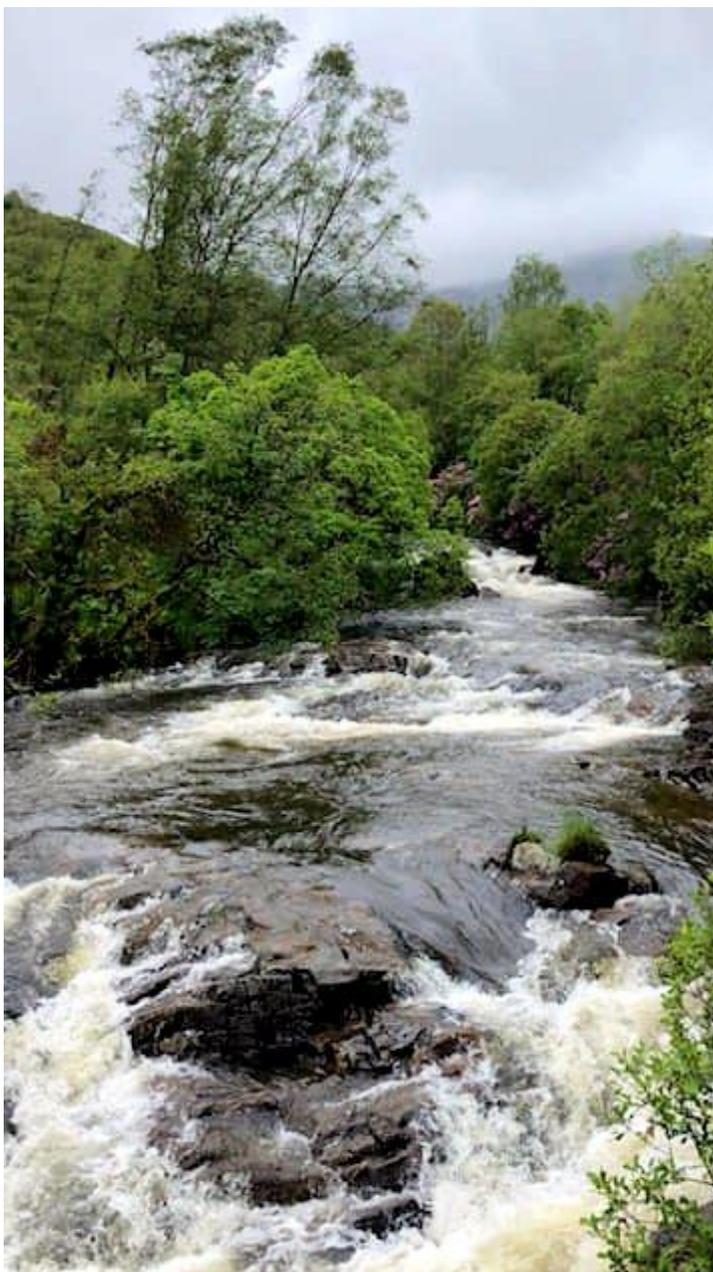
The rain increased and at the summit we briefly considered omitting the next twelve miles and the big drop to **Blaenau Ffestiniog** for lunch at **Tanygrisiau**. We pressed on, the scenery magnificent even in the drizzle, the colour from the rhododendrons adding to it. We were soon at our lunch stop by the lake. There was a lot of **Welsh** being spoken in the café and **Mari** ordered her lunch in her native language. The woman serving her replied "Oh, I'm sorry, would you like me to get a Welsh speaker to serve you?" We quickly assured her that **Mari's English** is quite passable nowadays! We marvelled at the friendly, cheerful service and low prices in the café, popular with locals, walkers, cyclists and bikers.



We waited for a heavy shower to pass and then headed back up the climb. **Peter** and **I** both commented that it didn't seem so steep as last year, but then realised the strong following

wind may have helped just a little. It was one of those unusual cycling days when you can actually feel the wind on your back. We paused by the old well at the summit next to the **Penmachno** turning and wondered if had been provided for pilgrims of old?

Then we enjoyed, perhaps the most sublime descent I can recall, over the moors. There were no potholes last year on this road but now the sections that were then a little bumpy had lovely fresh smooth tarmac (no idea why). We averaged 20mph over the next seven miles, and still had time to enjoy the view, the rain having finally stopped. At **Ysbty Ifan** we stopped to enjoy the lovely village. **Brian** declared he wanted to get back promptly and we suggested he made his own way; thus released from the group he sped off up the next hill leaving a hail of gravel behind him. Another ten miles avoiding the sheep and the **A5**, and we were back at the café, where we found **Brian** loading his car - unlike us he had ridden the final and steepest climb of the day.



Another great day out finished, those of you who chose the **Cheshire lanes** missed a treat.
PS - this was a '**Coats On**' day for us!

From Tony S... **Tony** (one of the **Alternatives**) rode alone and clearly enjoyed his ride. "Glorious e-biking day in the **Halkyns and Clwyds** today...managed to get to **Blend 92 in Babel** at last. Very cycle friendly, excellent coffee and nice sausage bap."

Texts as shown

Photos by Chris