

Cafe Fresh, Dunham - 27th January 2015

The first thing to say about today's ride is to explain the reason for the change of venue. When **Steve G** phoned the **Shrewsbury Arms** to let them know how many would arrive and what time they would arrive, they were less than welcoming and wanted to know what people were going to eat. They were not happy when **Steve** could not give the information - looks like it's going to close down again - our plug has been pulled. Their loss was **Cafe Fresh's** gain - only about a mile further - on where we were made very welcome by friendly staff and the food was good and reasonable.

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To use an old football cliché it was to be a ride of two halves, with the wind, and against it. Forecasters warned we could expect remains of the storm that had battered the east coast the **United States**.



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Warnings had gone out of the danger to cyclists of high side-winds, noted by our friend **Julian**. Despite the strong winds, it was very mild.

Steve led us to **Puddington** and **Burton**, a right turn here took us to **Willaston** before reaching the **Red Lion** on the **A41**, another right turn down **Ledsham Lane** and on to **Badgers Rake Lane**.

When we went down **Capenhurst Lane** it was looking like a short circular ride until we headed towards the gates at **Coalpit Lane**. You could see how much growth had been moved by our members over the weekend, a brilliant voluntary effort. I felt a fraud as I never got to hold a gate open - in fact our lady riders were gentlemen or is it gentleladies?

After crossing the **A41** it was down the lanes to **Chester Zoo**; avoiding the climb we turned left and headed for **Mickle Trafford**. Although we were in two groups, we did keep joining up now and again.

On arrival at the cafe there was more joining up with **George (no Ada)**, **Tony S**, **Glennys**, not seen for some time, and **Roy**. Seeing **Roy** was quite a surprise - only last week as a motorist he told us of various ailments he had. It seems only green monkey disease can

keep him off his bike, good on yer **Roy**. Briefly glimpsed was the slowly becoming, solo rider **Alan O**, the **Northop pimpernel**. **Steve** gave us a choice of two routes back and with a threat of rain we chose the shortest - the greenway, and didn't see any rain.

We thanked **Steve** for the ride and a very good alternative venue.

Today's date is the day In **1945** the **Russians** liberated **Auschwitz** and since **2006** has become known as **Holocaust Remembrance Day**. **U.N. General secretary Ban KI-Moon** said " On this day we must reassert our commitment to human rights" If only **Israel** and **Syria** and many others were committed likewise.

Chris Byrne

PS The Shrewsbury Arms has been removed from the Ch&NW Cafes and Pubs list on the website thanks to their unaccommodating attitude. (Glennys, Website Editor)

(As an aside, details of Chocks Away Diner at Hawarden Airport has been added to the list.)