

Carr Farm Garden Centre, Meols - 31st October 2018

Chris L says...

There were over twenty riders ready to follow **Jane** on this ride to **Carr Farm GC**, although some opted to go with **Brian L** (see below!).



Jane split us into two groups promising to visit some spooky sights on the way through **Puddington** and **Burton** - this was duly delivered. Unfortunately I was unable to photograph them as my phone decided to restart itself just as I was about to click! **Richard B.** was leading the second group and must have passed us at this point as we went up

Neston road to get in the Halloween mood!

A fairly uneventful ride here was highlighted by passing the fancy gates on **Well Lane** that had once adorned **Woodside railway station** (when there was such a place).



We stopped a couple of times to see if **Liz** was joining us but it turned faster group us all puffing



roads with a much needed banana stop at the top! (I am sure you are exaggerating **Chris!**)

out that she had gone with **Richard's** (well it would be wouldn't it?). Jane had and panting up **Delavor** and **Oldfield**

A very pleasant ride down through **Irby** and **Greasby** (through some back gardens possibly) - up a one way road (no one noticed) to the **Garden Centre**. They had reserved a table for us and the food was reasonable - served quickly too.

Being on the Wirral people started making their own way home from here although a good few stayed with **Jane** to go along the front at **Meols**, through **Hoylake** to see the old

lighthouse (now a private house) and along past the **Marine Lake** in **West Kirby** stopping for a photo opportunity at **Cubbins Green** before a trip through **Caldy** to see how the other half are getting on (very nicely thank you, now move along please!).



Some way along **Montgomery Hill** **Jane's** route took her in to **Royden Park** and **Thurstaston Common** (mountain bikes only please) but I took my leave here and carried on to **Landican** and home having cycled out to the **Eureka** earlier.



Thank you **Jane** for a pleasant ride - chilly, but a nice day, some interesting paths.



No mechanicals as far as I know. Your route said 41 miles (who said there are no hills on the wirral?)

Text and photos from Chris L

The Morris Dancer, Kelsall - 31st October 2018

From Brian L...

On Tuesday **Tony S** suggested going to the **Bluebell Café at Barrowmore**. **Glennys** advised however that on Wednesdays they often have a group of regulars and there might not be any room. On deciding an alternative I remembered that **Richard B** had taken the Friday Group to the **Morris Dancer in Kelsall** on one of the rides. Thinking that **Richard** is a connoisseur of good pubs I decided to **Google** it. I had not been there before but noticed it was part of the '**Brunning and Price**' group of pubs which to me only said "good". I received an email asking if I had noticed that a side of chips was £3.50. Owch! I thought that works for me as I'm trying to give up chips and crisps anyway. I think this had the opposite effect of what was intended.

Lo and behold I found myself sitting next to **Richard** at the **Eureka** on the Wednesday morning who was full of positives about the pub - so **The Morris Dancer** it was.

Just four of us set off namely **Glennys, Peter W, Roy** and of course yours truly. **Tony S** advised he would meet us on the route and did so in **Dunkirk Lane** making us up to five.

We were passing the **Audi** showroom when **Glennys** asked to stop as she was having trouble with a cleat. It turns out that she had picked up a huge stone and she could not engage with the pedal. Thinking of "removal of stones from a shoe"



immediately brought up a vision of a farrier removing a stone from a mare's hoof. With his country connections, **Tony** was the man and here we have captured the moment for posterity. (Sorry **Glennys** but first of all I preferred to use the word filly but then found out that a filly is less than four years old.)

Onward we rode more or less into a southerly wind making our way to **Stoak, Mickle Trafford, Waverton, Oscroft, Willington** corner and finally, **Kelsall** and **The Morris Dancer**. The car park was pretty full and some concern was expressed about table availability and whether it was the type of pub in which four Omils and one Owil, would be welcome. **Richard** of course had dispelled any such fears for me - we entered and as anticipated found loads of room. We were told that they can do 180 covers if outside tables are included.



A welcoming pub feature was a roaring log fire and one of us (**Brian L**) took the opportunity to warm himself up. This moment was also captured for “**posteriority**” or something like that.

Food was of good quality but some thought a little on the expensive side. Suffice it to say there were no orders for a side of chips.

With the wind behind us we headed for **Ashton** dodging the traffic while crossing the **A54** on a duel carriageway section without any safe crossings. Whose idea was that? **Mea culpa** - and I promise to do better next time. It would have been better to return via **Oscroft** and **Tarvin Sands**.

We finished our ride via **Manley, Mickle Trafford** and the **Greenway** with the **Eureka** four peeling off and **Tony** riding home to **Mold**. A final surprise treat was in store when **Roy** ordered **tea and Tunnocks** for four. Sorry **Tony** but thanks **Roy**.

Distance was 38 miles with just short of 1100 ft of climbing but an enjoyable ride.

Text by Brian L

Photos Glennys and Brian