

The Hollybush Inn, Cefn-y-Bedd - 1st May 2019

From Chris L ...

This week we rode out to **Cefn-y-Bedd** guided by **Peter L**; the forecast hadn't been too kind (rain due later that day) and it had been raining during the night! However seven of us appeared at the **Eureka** for coffee before setting out to meet **Peter** and **Mari** at **Hawarden Bridge**. We needed **Peter's** expertise as he guided us through housing estates (going in an upward direction) through **Shotton** and **Ewloe**, skirting **Buckley** before we hit countryside; there was one steep descent over a rubble track before nearly everyone got caught in the wrong gear (cyclists dismount!) coming up the other side! We circled **Alyn Waters Country Park** before arriving at the **Hollybush** ready for refreshment.

George and **Ada** were there having ordered their lunch. **Peter** had called ahead with the sandwich and chips deal numbers (£5) which duly arrived; they were good with plenty to spare even after everyone had had seconds! Also the beer was very acceptable and staff were pleasant - we'll be back.



It seems we've hit a period where the return route is longer and has more climbing than the outward ride - today was no exception - after a descent through some wet wooded area we headed on up to **Treuddyn** (**Hollybush** at 260ft, rise to 800ft!) passing a stretch of road governed by traffic lights warning motorists that "*cyclists may be in the road*" - should this not be everywhere? This was by **Offa's Dyke** (there's another word that's been hijacked!) - this may explain why some of the nearby cattle were getting over excited; this is spring after all!

It's reasonable to say that it was nearly all downhill from here (!), past **Peter's** house - although he did stay with us down through **Northop** to **Connah's Quay** where he wanted to show us a neat way of missing out the main road and arriving at a new café - it has been open about three years although I've never noticed it even though we've been passed it lots! Tea and cake were duly produced (cheap) although a chap did try to sell us a boat trip along the **Dee** to **Chester**, or try a Sunday lunch there (not sure **Gill** would be too impressed with the venue - but the cake was excellent!). Having made our excuses, **Peter** left us (with **Mari**) for their trip back up the hill to **Mold/Nercwys** whilst we made our way up **Woodbank** back to **Two Mills**. I counted 47.6 miles with 2400ft climbing - thanks Peter - no rain either - what's not to like....

Chris L

The Alternatives

After a short discussion we agreed with **Peter W's** suggestion to go to **The Alyn at Rossett** as we hadn't been there for some time.. Seven riders set off down **Woodbank Lane** to the **River path** and straight on to **The Groves** in **Chester** for the usual comfort and 'Banana' stop. Our rides nearly always feature a banana stop but no-one has a banana! This was an opportunity to photograph the two **Alans** sitting side by side and finally consuming a banana (see below).

We headed through the estate (finding the allotments) and on to **Eccleston**. To lengthen the ride **Peter** included the **Straight Mile** and then we headed down to **Rossett**. Having an e-biker leading seemed to up the pace a bit but then we needed to keep warm so no complaints.



Peter had phoned ahead to the pub where they had laid up tables for the group. We all enjoyed the food and very friendly service.

Our route went through **Higher Kinnerton**, back over the **footbridge** and the **River path**.



Riders peeled off at various points for their own destinations and **Peter** and I arrived at **Eureka** for a **Tea and Tunnocks**.

Thank you **Peter** for your venue suggestion and a good ride.

Text and Photos - Glennys