

The Hollybush, Cefn-y-bedd- 27th April 2016



Despite today's ride being described as hilly there was still a good turnout for the ride to **Cefn-y-Bedd** led by **John F** although still not fully fit. The forecast was for showers in the afternoon, although the day had started in sunshine as **John** led off to the marshes. **Brian L** had planned a route with a few less hills so I joined him with two others, **Richard, and Ruth** as we headed to **Woodbank**.

As the wind was with us we decided to follow the **Dee** to **Saltney Bridge** going towards **Bretton**. As the sky was turning alarmingly black we stopped to don our waterproofs before **Kinnerton** just as we got battered by hailstones.

Mally, who had met up with us carried on (into the hail and wind). **Ruth** came up with the best suggestion of the day "*let's go and shelter in a cafe in Broughton*". It took 30 minutes before it cleared up, but it was a very welcome cuppa.

Brian revised the route slightly but still headed to **Kinnerton** and up **Sandy Lane** to pass **Jimmy Hendrix's tree**.

The hailstones hadn't given up and on the approach to the **Holly Bush** pub we were forced to take shelter once more - our thoughts were "*thank goodness we are not with the hill climbers*".

When we arrived there was only **George and Ada**, also nice to see **Noel and Hazel** - we still miss **Noel's** knowledge of routes. The service in the pub was very good and friendly.

Within minutes the main group started to arrive in dribs and drabs - some of the dribs looked weather beaten. Colin, in only short sleeves and shorts had somehow survived the snow covered summits - there is no photographic evidence, but there were eye witnesses.

Brian's group had increased to six for the ride home - it remained dry but the wind had a very cold edge. As we neared Woodbank some of John's team joined up with us.

Reflecting on today's ride I will bring to mind the trip to Cefn-y-bedd seeing snow on the Holly Bush in spring, with Colin's knees looking like red berries.

Thanks Brian and even more thanks to Ruth for suggesting the cafe.

Almost on the day 28th April Bradley Wiggins celebrates his 36th birthday as he starts the Tour of Yorkshire.

It was also the first flight in 2005 from Toulouse for Airbus A380

Chris Byrne

