

Charles Allan Memorial Ride, The White Owl, Thurstaston 'Alternatives' Ride to Jemoley's, Penyffordd - 6th March 2019,

From Paul M...

There was a fifteen rider turnout for today's Wednesday ride to the **White Owl at Thurstaston**, which was a more amenable venue than originally organised. The weather forecast promised rain and was duly delivered as we set off in a light drizzle heading to **Puddington** with yet another road closure which we were kindly allowed through.

We stopped en-route at **Hadlow Road Station** to commemorate **'Wednesday Riders'** founding member **Charles Allen's birthday** and see a cheque presented by **Chester and North Wales CTC President Mike Cross** to the **Friends of Hadlow Road's Tim Ley**.

Mike also recalled other founder members including **Angus McCulloch**, who was the first person to respond to **Charles Allan's** open ride invitation, and **Laurie McCabe** who was known to look after the 'newbies' in the group and was the first port of call for mechanical failures. There is a **commemorative plaque** on a bench to **Charles Allan** and another plaque in the ground to **Laurie McCabe**.



Plaques at Hadlow Road Station

Charles Allan and Laurie McCabe



We then pressed onwards towards our lunch venue regrouping at **Raby** to even up the numbers. The sun threatened to break out on occasions but was interspersed with drizzle for most of the day. After a slight detour around **Storeton** to further inspect the flora and fauna thankfully we didn't go down the off-road route to **Landican**. **The White Owl** laid on a very well-presented and received platters of doorstep sandwiches, dressed salad leaves and plates of chips all highly recommended.

The route back involved some of the **Wirral Way** which did get some light-hearted grumbles about not matching the route to the prevailing weather conditions; all attempts to keep the bike clean was to no avail, although **John F** was offering the services of his wife **Eve** for free bike valeting (I am sure he would not be able to back this up if pressed), with some departing the return route at various points along the way. A few stopped at **Net's** for further coffees and probably undeserved cakes for the distance ridden, then onwards via **Burton Marshes** and its rather "muddy" path back to the **Eureka**.

Thanks to **John F** for organising and leading the second group, and I am not sure who led the first group between **Bruce, Richard or Chris** - thanks anyway.

(John F replied...

"I did mention that my bike could do with a clean when I got home also that I had offered Eve's valeting service to the group. The response wasn't very positive")

'Alternatives' Ride to Jemoleys, Penyffordd (not Honey's, Caergwrle)

Numbers were down this week from the customary ten or twelve to just one and I left the **Eureka** alone heading for **Honey's Bakery** in **Caergwrle** via **Burton Marshes**, a real "**Brian No Mates**" so to speak.

Earlier in the morning **Glennys** had called off with car trouble but I had potential company in **Alan O** and **Tony S** who planned to meet up with us somewhere on the route and at their discretion. Just before **Puddington** I made a stop to put my 'drylegs' on and got a call from **Glennys** to say she had arrived at the **Eureka** and asked me for my whereabouts. To cut a long story short I said I would wait for her if she made her way to **Puddington** and then I sent a text to **Alan and Tony**, warning them of the probable significant delay to our plans. After some minutes had passed with no **Glennys** in sight I decided to ride towards the **Eureka** just in case she had managed to take a wrong turning which sometimes happens as regular report readers will know. I saw a cyclist in the distance fixing a puncture and then **Glennys** appeared and stopped to talk to the suffering soul. On my arrival at the scene I recognised the rider as no

other than our most senior but still very active rider **Bob Will...** who was fixing his second puncture of the day.

After a brief natter we left **Bob** with the customary "Have a good day" and rode off towards **Puddington**. We soon bumped into **Tony S** (not literally of course) who had decided to put in a few additional miles rather than keeping the sheep company on the **Marshes**. Now things were looking up and we were three in number. Onward to the boardwalk looking for **Allan O** to join us but we didn't see him at all - but more of that later.

With myself in the lead we pressed on through **Queensferry** and **Mancot** and **Hawarden** where we paused at the cross for a short stop then onward again up through **Bilberry Wood**. After a short conflagration we decided that time constraints would prevent us from getting to **Honey's** (once again) so we opted for **Jemoleys** in **Penyffordd** (once again) where we were fed and watered with the usual alacrity and good food quality, both of which we have come to expect at this venue.

Before departure I did a quick check on my phone for messages as I occasionally miss one or two or even manage to have it on "silent" would you believe? This occasion was no exception and I found two texts from **Glennys** re her earlier delay and one from **Alan O**. **Alan** had waited for us in **Hawarden** until 11.45, gave up the ghost, and taken himself off to the **Gallery** for some victuals. He was probably there when we rode through! After lunch Tony departed towards **Buckley** and **Glennys** and I returned to the **Eureka** via **Stryt Isa**, **Kinnerton**, **Saltney Ferry Footbridge** and the **Dee pathway**.

I later got a text from **Alan** telling me that he had been the victim of a canine attack which resulted in a tear in his bibtights. Fortunately there was no personal injury. The owner did apologise so **Alan** has decided not to seek "com **PANTS** ation".

With only 32 miles on the clock on our return to the **Eureka** it was not the longest ride we have done this year but I consoled myself with the thought that even 32 miles is better than none.

Later Bob Will... let me know that he decided to walk back to the **Eureka**, bought and fitted a new tube, and then punctured once again on his way home. Three punctures in a morning. That is a tough call in any language. He also told me that as part of the **2019 Wayfarers Centenary weekend on 30/31st March** he would be riding the **Nant Rhyd Wilym Pass** on a 62in fixed wheel. You are a better man than I am **Gunga Din!**

Brian L

Many thanks to Brian for waiting for me and for leading the ride (Ed.)