

Crown Inn, Llay -14th October 2015

Mike Knox is our guide for today's ride to Llay, a small ex-mining village near Wrexham. The name Llay means meadow and prior to the 60s had the largest and

deepest colliery in the country. It employed 3,000 men until it was exhausted in 1966.



The Crown Inn, Llay

It still has the largest Miner's Welfare Institute in the country built in 1931. Today's date is also remembered for the worst ever coal mine disaster in Senghenydd, South Wales, when 439 miners died.

Just to remind our readers, there were only fourteen survivors three of which were our very own Glennys' Grandfather and his two sons (See photo in Gresford blog.

Miners' Welfare Institute

Also on this date was another great loss of life when King Harold 2nd met his end at the Battle of Hastings 1066, although it took place on Senlac Hill seven miles away

– Where was I?? oh yes, fifteen riders set off on a very cool morning, I think I was the only one with shorts and blue knees, but thankfully it did warm up. Mike K once again used his knowledge of alternative roads to get to familiar places, arriving at the band stand on the Dee in Chester.



While having our bananas we got talking to a cyclist from the **Czech Republic** who was 7,000 miles into a mammoth ride around **Europe** and **Africa**. **Chris Lamb** took his photo - his name is **Martin Kabrhel** and he gave us his **Facebook** address, **sutoja.eu**. It is quite lengthy! His next stop was **Scotland**, so we wished him luck then we crossed the pedestrian bridge and headed to **Rossett** and **Marford**.

We were about to break new ground as we passed the **Trevor Arms** we turned right into a really nice lane which was a few miles long. At the end we turned right again with two miles to go including a very steep hill before arriving at the **Crown Inn**. Inside the pub there were some great pictures of miners and one huge one of the old pit head.



Martin Kabrhel from the Czech Republic

Re-energised after lunch we entered the marvellous lanes that take in **Golly** and eventually lead to the **Tree Guitarist** and **Mountain Valley Road**. We came down the **Warren** and then crossed the **A550 to Doddleston**, going to **Saltney**, over the **Dee** and along the bank to the **blue bridge**.

At the end of **Woodbank** we thanked **Mike** for another very enjoyable ride.

Chris Byrne