

Pant-yr-Ochain - 29th August 2018

This was our first ride for a while that started in wet weather and a few people were caught out without their mudguards after the long dry summer. **Liz** (our leader) was understandably keen to start on time (9:30am) which meant that we met a number of prospective riders arriving as we were leaving.

We set off in two groups of eight with **Liz** and **Chris D** leading each of them. Four of **Chris's** group had changed their minds and retired before reaching **Hawarden Bridge**. **Liz** though, had gained three riders who had met us en-route, so we now had eleven and four in the two groups so we stopped for a readjustment. I was now in the second group with **Chris D** and we rode up to **Hawarden**. Here we found **Peter L** and **John F** dealing with a puncture. I stopped briefly but realising I was supernumerary soon decided to press on. As I came into Hawarden I was surprised to find the group I was with coming towards me. The first of many **Garmin** glitches for the day!

I have noticed before that when **Chris D** is leading a second group he often manages to arrive at the destination before the first group so when we overtook them taking off their waterproofs I thought this would happen again. **Liz** was having none of this and caught him up, and the two groups rode together along the quieter lanes at the end of the interesting and scenic route to the **Pant-yr-Ochain**.



At the pub we met **Bob and Jill**, and **Tony S** - not forgetting **Glennys** who had ridden solo from **Kelsall**. **Tony** it seems, is developing a liking for setting off after the rest of us in a bid to see if he can catch up by lunch.

His comment on the ride (from **Strava**) was "*Liz put in some lovely hills which I love :-)*" I leave it to you to interpret his meaning.

Lunchtime chat included some discussion about



Toiletgate" (see last week's email).



The return route was uneventful and after a **Jelly Baby stop** (thanks **Sue**) at **Saltney Ferry** we started splitting into smaller groups for the ride home or to **Two Mills**. It was very windy along the river requiring a stop at the **Harp** to recover. **Glennys** reported she had returned to **Kelsall** via the **Farndon/Holt bridge** which was open to pedestrians and cyclists at 2.30pm. Many thanks to the **Liz** for an interesting ride.



Text by Chris S

Photos by John F