

Pant-yr-Ochain, Gresford - 28th August 2019

When I left **Bebington** it had just stopped raining (heavy overnight) and yet at **Two Mills** the road was dry. **Helen** then reported that **Bromborough** had also been dry! Forecast wasn't looking good but sixteen of us assembled at the bus stop ready to roll. **John F** asked us to split in to two groups of eight (although he now tells me there were ten in his group - including **Peter** and **Glennys**).

We'd gone about four miles (near **Cheshire Oaks**) when the drizzle started and so it was "coats on" before continuing to **Picton** and **Mickle Trafford**: a few of us hesitated and looked longingly at **Meadow Lea** as we passed



but **Chris** (leading our group) carried on regardless - he did confess later that he'd asked **John** about stopping here but met with a negative reply. In **John's 'B' group** however **Andy** and **John** couldn't resist and were never seen again! **Tony Sw** joined up with us here giving us nine.

Heads down in to the rain we carried on to **Waverton** (it wasn't very nice there either); **John's** group lost **Peter** and **Glennys** here who headed off to **Walk Mill** taking his group down to six. We crossed the **A41** and sought shelter in a layby at **Saighton** for a banana stop and rest (I was the only one with a banana - again!). After **Bruera** I had to stop as my saddle bag was open (can't lose another padlock) and lost contact with the group when joining main road at **Aldford** (never known any traffic there before!). I caught up with **Tony** on this road as he was not on his e-bike today - **Chris and Co** waited for us at **Farndon** then my chain came off and stuck behind the chain wheel. **Tony** helped lifting the bike but again we lost contact; we did however have the route and they were waiting at **Borras** for the final run up to **Gresford** - it wasn't even 12 o'clock! I suppose heads down into the rain you just crack on! Not that heavy really but we were all soaked through...

The pub was very welcoming as always, ordered drinks at the bar and then came to take orders at the table - good menu, mine was excellent, with a good time to recuperate and dry off (a bit). **John's group** arrived with five, **Bob W** having ridden straight home.



The drizzle had eased whilst in the pub, the forecast looking a lot better for the afternoon - so apart from donning damp coats and gloves eight of us set off home - **Tony Sw** having a puncture and opting to come back with **John** - it seems this punctured again straight away but the offending slither of glass was spotted and ejected this time - no further issues there! Return was otherwise fairly uneventful via **Llay** and **Kinnerton**; at **Saltney** two left us, **Chris** had to call at **Shotton**. I was supposed to take over leading (although everyone knew the way) but I decided to remove my coat thinking the rain had gone, was caught up at **Blacon** but just down the **Greenway** the rain started again so I had to stop and put it back on... I managed to catch up with **Paul** and we stopped at **Eureka** for tea (and cake for me) - **Glennys** and **Peter** were there - before I went home for a welcome hot bath.

Thanks **John** for the route, I'd better not thank anyone for the rain but hey ho! 48 miles 1400ft. Only a few photos today (wasn't going to get phone wet!).

Text and photos by Chris L