'B' ride to Old New Inn, Llanfyllin 'C' Ride to Gladstone Library, Hawarden 15th May 2019

The B ride to Llanfyllin

From Chris S...

Last week's rides were, as you will know, cancelled due to the poor weather forecast. It was unfortunate timing to affect one of the years more unusual/interesting rides. So far as I could see it didn't turn out as heavy as forecast but did rain steadily all day. Paul M seems to have been the only one to turn out and has supplied the attached photo of the empty café. I took the opportunity to go and see the new Tolkien film, which I worked on as a Extra 18 months ago in Liverpool. It was interesting, not only to catch several glimpses of myself in St George's Hall, but also spotting well known scenes such as Thornton Hough.

Chris L was with the B ride and has supplied the following report. I believe there were six riders in the C ride led by Paul M who decided to go to the Gladstone Library instead of the Hawarden Farm Shop, but broadly using the route I supplied. There was another similar number who went on a longer ride with the Alternatives, also to the Gladstone Library.

The B ride marked one interesting development (to me at least) being the first ride when all participants recorded their efforts on Strava.

From Chris L...

Richard led the Wednesday Riders from Chirk to Llanfyllin (and back) via Llanarmon and Oswestry. There were only four of us, given that many regulars had done the three day Lancs tour and the prospect of more hills (and there were!) with only a day to recuperate proved too much for some! So Richard B was joined by Chris S, myself and John Ma from the Pensarn



Pootlers.

We marvelled at the views (more of them later)



during the excellent weather provided (I suspect Richard had prearranged this - good man).



We met at the Bistro in Chirk for coffee prior to 9.30am start and enjoyed a very pleasant roll out to along the Ceiriog valley to Llanarmon DC; the hills had been gradual up to this point but

someone had painted a cliff face after this with only one road - I'd cycled this twice before but this is the first time I'd had to push! Fortunately John joined me in this



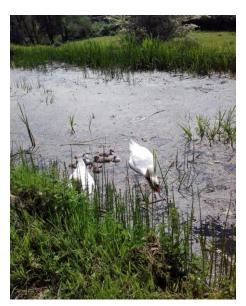
manoeuvre so I wasn't too embarrassed (the weekend catching up with me). The next 6 miles was nearly all downhill from 1300 ft to 420 ft again with some amazing scenery, although



Richard had warned us of some very dodgy surfaces which meant keeping heads down now to the road!

It was around here that I thought I had a puncture as my back wheel seemed to slide a bit going round a bend. It turned out to have slightly deflated so Chris helped me change the tube; no issue was found so we may have got away with pumping it back up - best be on the safe side though! Just remembered in time to retighten the brake before heading off down those hills!





After nearly drifting off course (well spotted John) - admiring the scenery too much(!) we followed the Afon Cain valley into Llanfyllin - Richard had planned a sandwich deal but since there were only four of us we took lunch from the menu of The Old New Inn (with chips) here, the beer was good (mine) and sandwiches ok, but the decor left a lot to be desired harking back to the 60's - I don't think we'll be back.

Our route back took us east past lots of towns and villages called Llan.... something following the river Vyrnwy or the Montgomery canal; the earlier part overgrown with algae and some very low bridges (so that's why we wear helmets!) and

followed by some narrow boats down this very narrow canal! At this point the fantastic views (have I mentioned these?) petered out and following a stretch of the A483 we were faced with some rather industrial areas in Oswestry - cycled on to Weston Rhyn for an ice cream (strange people there) before tracing the Llangollen Canal

as it crossed the Ceiriog (best walk here) and back in to Chirk.

Great ride Richard, 54.5 miles 3500 ft (no wonder I've not been able to walk!) - amazing views - got to mention these! We must be mad......



C Ride and the Alternatives

From Chris S (again)...

I believe there were six riders in the C ride led by Paul M who decided to go to the Gladstone Library instead of the Hawarden Farm Shop, but broadly using the route I supplied. There was another similar number who went on a longer ride with the Alternatives, also to the Gladstone Library.

Many thanks to Paul (about 27 miles) for leading the C ride and Brian L (40 miles) for leading to the Gladstone Library.