

'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**.