

## Caffi Florence, Loggerheads - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014

It had to happen eventually; our good luck with fine weather ran out today but despite the wet forecast eleven hardy souls turned out. It must have been disappointing for **Brian L** as he wanted to share his ride with as many as possible, he had four counting himself setting off at 9.30am for **Loggerheads**. **Chris B** had six others joining him for the same destination but over a different route (less hills).

The rain was light which did help, and going along the marshes we could just about see **Moel Famau** over the **Dee** through the mist.



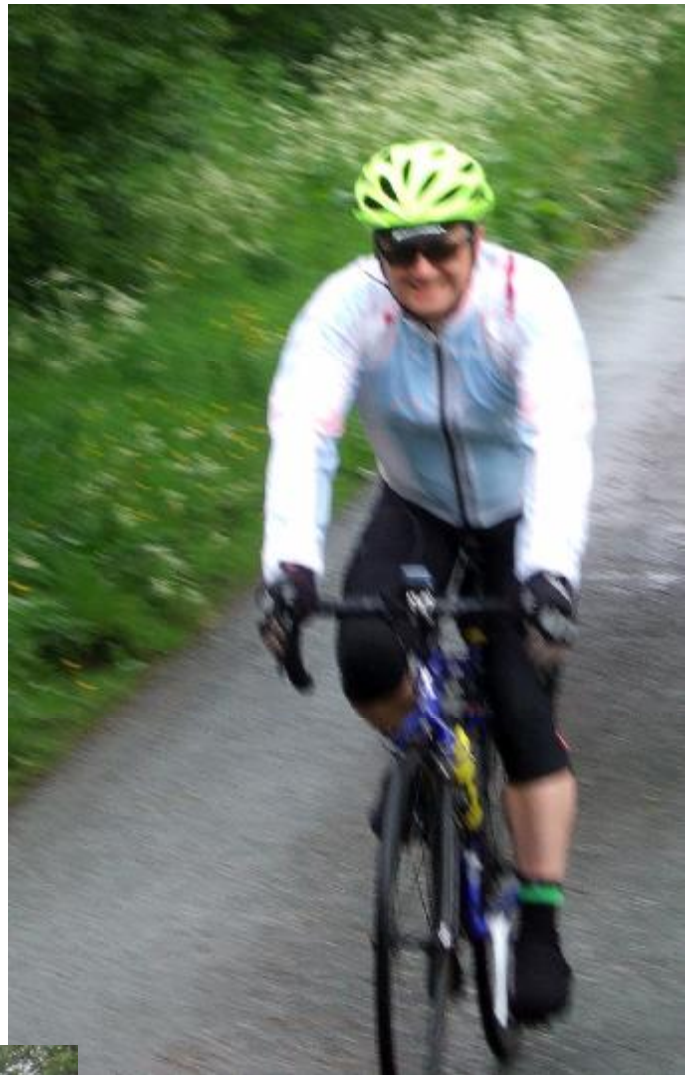
We headed for Papermill Lane to go up to **Northop**.

Everybody said “well done **Chris**, this has got to be the best way to **Northop**, (sorry **Brian**).

**Jane**, who is still recovering from injury was doubting her wisdom in coming on a ride with some challenging hills, but she was doing ok. I thought the hardest climb was up to **Gwernaffield** until someone suggested going via **Pantymwyn**! I think it should be called Pant-a-lot.



It was coming down into the valley that really tested our brakes. This is where on a previous ride **Mike Maxwell's** brake overheated exploding his inner tube. It sounded like a gun going off. Nothing like that happened this time but unfortunately **Dave** who had gone ahead for the first time decided to ride through the ford instead of using the bridge. With all the rain the ford resembled rapids; he almost got across but then he lost it going waist deep and banging his left knee. The lane on the other side of the ford was so steep we all walked up! Then it was only a couple of miles to the **Caffi Florence** at **Loggerheads**.



Looking forward to drying out and having a hot drink we found the cafe closed due to having no power. **Brian's** group arrived within minutes to be just as disappointed. Some decided they were going over the road to the pub and others to the cafe in **Tesco, Mold**.



After our sandwiches myself and **Tony Mc** chose to go to **Tesco** for a really nice cuppa for £1. As we found no one else was in **Tesco** I felt I had deserted my group, but I'm pretty sure everyone knew their way home. With help from the tea lady I was able to find the plaque commemorating the tragic event of 1869 (as mentioned in a previous blog - see pic)



All I can report re **Brian's** ride is **Alan O** described going through every village and every hill this side of **Snowden**.

So there will be some serious contenders to Janet's polka dot jersey this year.

Well done to the all-weather riders who made it.

**Chris Byrne**

Photos by John Ferguson



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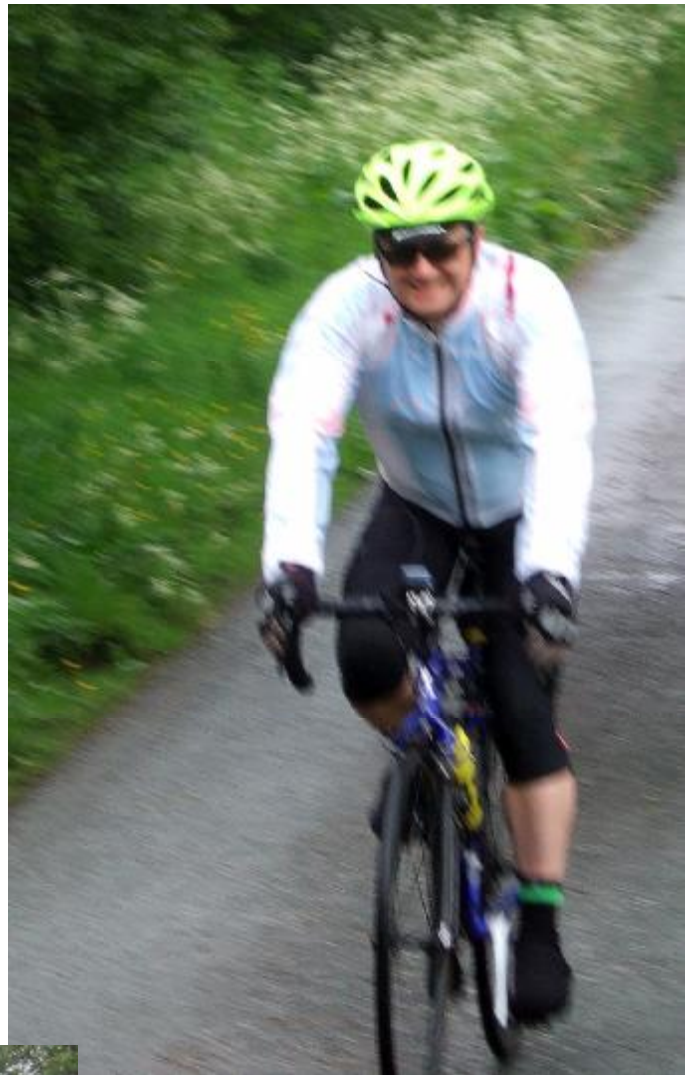
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