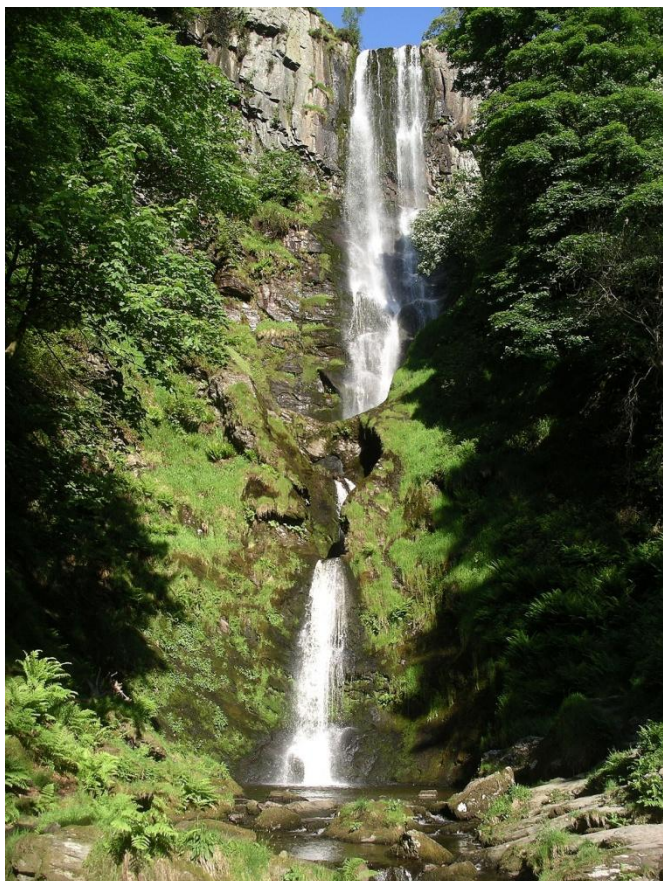


## Pistyll Rhaeadr and Delamere - July 5th 2017



Richard had suggested we park at a public car park in Chirk for last week's ride - good concept, except that approximately fifty large SP energy vehicles got there before us! Eight of us assembled in the very pleasant Castle Bistro and after enjoying a coffee set off in the sunshine.

### Pistyll Rhaeadr waterfall

For the first ten miles the route was a very gentle, an upwards slope along quiet lanes passing through the occasional picturesque village and a surprising number of very attractive pubs.

After Llanarmon DC the gradient increased and at one point touched 20% on my Garmin causing most of us to walk! We were though rewarded with fabulous views as is often the case.

Soon we were onto the 'No Through Road', or rather lane, that leads to Pistyll Rhaeadr. We enjoyed a very pleasant lunch with the waterfall on one side of us and a New Age wedding taking place on the other. The guests were very smartly dressed and most had decorated their Wellingtons! We resisted the opportunity to climb to the top of the waterfall and after an ice cream set off back.

After a long fast descent we stopped in Penybont to regroup. At this point Richard offered us an opportunity. He said he had taken account of what people had said about it normally being an A ride on the first Wednesday of the month, yet he had offered a B ride at 46 miles, so he had decided to offer an extra four miles and a hill. We discussed this for a few minutes, standing near to the junction. Rich and Tony decided they didn't want an extra hill and so continued on. Peter and I decided we would take the opportunity, but when we rounded the corner were amazed to find the other four had gone without us. We raced after them with no idea of the new route and were soon reunited. The disused Montgomery Canal provided a pleasant traffic free alternative for some miles.

We stopped for another ice cream on the outskirts of **Oswestry** and after passing through **Weston Rhyn** we were soon back at the **Castle Bistro** where we met the other two again. An excellent day we all felt, and a route which we would like to see become a regular in the calendar. For me it was certainly one of the highlights of the year's programme.



**Delamere Forest  
Visitor's Centre Café**

As for the C ride, I understand there was a very good turnout, possibly ten with the usual C riders being supplemented by others who were away, unwell, injured, or had overslept. I think there used to be a less politically acceptable name for these categories but I'd better move swiftly on.

**Chris Smith**