

## Red Lion, Ellesmere - 4th April 2018

Harry has provided this commentary...

With a forecast of regular showers, heavy cloud cover and a real feel temp of 6C for most of the day it's not surprising there were only five hardy souls at Eureka (Helen, Marie, John F, John W and myself) for a 9:30am departure, and a similar number gathered at Chirk (Julian, Ruth, Tony, Brian J & Sylvia) for a 10:00 am depart.



Heading off into a stiff South Westerly breeze slowed our progress slightly but all went well until we arrived at Cross Lanes which was about twenty-five miles into the outbound leg, John F discovered his front wheel was rather wobbly and upon inspection found he had failed to tighten the quick release fastener the night

before when carrying out a bit of maintenance. Another three to four miles further on we had our second mechanical John F's chain leapt off his rear cassette and became wedged tight between sprocket and wheel hub; to free it required removal of the rear hanger which when refitted, prevented him changing gear. So we arrived at the Red Lion, Ellesmere about thirty minutes later than planned to find the Chirk team already seated and eager to get the pre-ordered chips and sandwiches served up.

After devouring our chunky chips and delicious sandwiches everybody was ready to face the elements again. We did have a shower of biblical proportions on the way back along with a further mechanical with John F's chain. This time it required a visit to a local farm to borrow a hammer and long spanner in order to "welly" the chain loose which also left the rear cassette stuck in a high gear resulting in John spinning furiously to keep pace with the group. John F retired for cake a cuppa and a well earned rest at Farndon while the remainder of us trundled on arriving back at Eureka around 5:30pm after a what turned out to be a rather long but rewarding day. After seventy eventful miles everyone being cold, wet and weary and looking forward to some warmth and sustenance, I am sure they were also thinking "Why do we do it"!!

Harry

## Last week's B ride with Ruth and Julian from Chirk to Ellesmere

Commentary from Brian Joyce...

A reduced turnout today, you all did well to miss it, it rained most of the day and the lanes around **Ellesmere** were even worse, if that's possible, than they were for the Iron Works ride some weeks ago. I lost count of the number of flooded road dips and mud we went through - well the bikes have put on several pounds in weight over the day. The **Red Lion** were a bit parsimonious we thought with the sandwiches, only half a round or so each (two quarters) but the chips were thick, hot and plentiful. Now that the chips/sandwiches deal has become so ubiquitous what about a vote by members on which establishment has given us the best deal with regard to quantity and quality?

We arrived about 40 minutes before **Harry's** group, despite not leaving **Chirk** till 10.30am due to our late arrival after a three-car RTA earlier caused delays on the **A483**. Time for two cups of coffee while we waited for the other group. Sod's law decreed that it was dry and sunny while we were inside the **Red Lion** but about half an hour after leaving the rain began again and accompanied us all the way back to **Chirk**. Only thirty-two miles in total for Ruth and Julian's group and John's group but nearly two thousand feet of climbing over the whole day. Lunchtime discussions covered such diverse topics as speculation on the identity of "A *Wheeler*", updates on various ailments of members present and absent and the **Duke of Edinburgh's** ability to have a new hip replacement without having to go on a waiting list....

Hope that gives you a flavour of the day's ride.....

### Brian

Thanks to both for their commentary. Makes me almost glad I was unwell! Once more we have rather divergent views on the quality of the catering.

I have also heard that five of **Brian L's** occasional group rode from the **Eureka** at 10:00am, to **Cleopatra's in Holt** via **Meadow Lee** (but no stopping). They enjoyed their lunch but set off back in a heavy downpour. **Peter W** and **Margaret S** became separated from the main group whilst negotiating some flooded roads. When they established contact they found that **Glennys'** group had punctured so the two groups made their own separate way back. **Margaret** and **Peter** made another café stop at the **Harp** after struggling into a headwind along the river. I'm not sure about the others but **Margaret** recorded almost fifty miles riding - more than the week's B ride group!

### Chris Smith

