

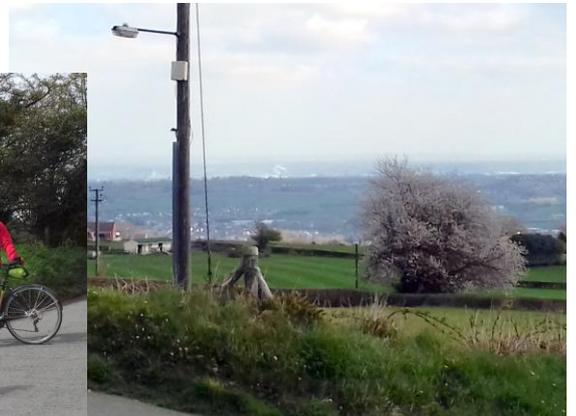
Rides to Rhewl and Meols - 10th April 2019

From Chris S...

I'm very pleased that **Chris L** is back with us both riding and writing, so his report is below. I hadn't really expected this so had already written my own rather than pester him and didn't have time to edit mine, so have included both, in any case we were on different rides. First **Chris L's account...**

B ride to Rhewl - from Chris L...

There were five of us who set off from **Mold**, **Tony S** had seen me arrive, then **Jane** appeared having gone to the wrong car park; thinking that was it we just caught sight of Ian and Mary to make up the numbers. That car park does need a coffee shop! As you will no doubt be aware, **Mold** is situated such that all routes out involve going up hills; no surprises in store - so you think!



It seemed easy for **Tony** on his e-bike waiting for us at the top of each rise or by a junction but the rest of us had to rely on pedal power and it was soon beginning to tell. The route took us to the south of **Moel Famau** but then we were greeted by the wonderful sight over the Vale of Clwyd on a fairly clear and sunny day. There followed a severe drop towards **Ruthin**, the views must have

been exceptional although no one was able to raise their heads and take their eyes off the road (bumpy) for one second!



We were now on the relatively flat route to the pub but assuming the A riders couldn't possibly be at the pub yet (ie no sandwiches) a little extra detour seemed in order only to find them at the pub already having ordered drinks with the food on the way!

George and Ada were in the car park and came in with us, and ended up making up the numbers for the chip/buttie deal as we'd counted **Ian and Mary** in but they'd brought their own lunch.

It was good to catch up with the other group - they were eight in number led by **Brian L**. All appeared fit and well following their greater distance and elevation! There were a few others in the pub which is always good to see but soon felt we needed to make our way back.

Normally you'd expect to find the morning section requiring more exertion than afternoon however today was to be an exception! **Tony** did tell us we were due to use the **Shelf**. I did spot him removing his coat at one of the stops about four miles in to the ride and I was so glad I took the hint and followed suit! Some of you may know that I've been unable to cycle for about six weeks and apart from a couple of short rides (there's no hills to speak of on Wirral) so I'm not



ashamed to admit that I had to get off and push on more than one occasion - I wasn't alone either!



I'm sure I'd done the **Shelf** before but cannot remember it being like this, I'll remember it in future and look forward to being able complete the route cycling!

We stopped briefly in **Llanarmon Yn Lal** to discuss the quality of the coffee at the pub (**Jane** was not impressed) and the



coffee at the shop which **Tony** wouldn't recommend either - so, on we plodded (at least that's how it felt to me) up to **Eryrys** before a steep (brakes) return to **Mold** following the outward route.

Thanks **Tony** for leading us, 36 miles and 3300ft climbing! I understand there were no casualties on **Brian's** ride either. **Brian McDonald** took a ride to **Meols** also today 44 miles - I think five riders in all. A gloriously sunny day although a tad on the chilly side!

A Rides to Rhewl - from Chris S...

When we went to **Rhewl** last year (from **Mold**) I suggested that some people might like to ride from **Eureka** but no one did! This year **Brian L** grasped the nettle and provided a route in advance. This meant that eight of us arrived at the **Eureka**, all except **Brian** who was a little unsure how hard a ride it would be. In fact it turned into a brilliant day - the weather was perfect, the scenery was stunning, and **Brian** had worked out a fantastic route with hardly any traffic, but stunning views. I can honestly say it was one of the best rides I have ever done, I really enjoyed it and look forward to repeating the route at some point. When we arrived at the **Drovers Inn** they were very welcoming and we were soon joined by **Tony** who had led a group of six from **Mold**. It was good to see **Chris L** back amongst us after his operation. There was some confusion about the numbers for lunch with two people being counted who didn't want it, but **George and Ada** had arrived by car, and quickly volunteered to fill the extra places. The sandwiches, chips and beer (for some) were quickly consumed and the two groups went their separate ways, although **Ken** and **Duncan** switched groups. They said this was so they could join **Tony** in riding back via "**The Shelf**" but I think it was to avoid the monstrous hill **Brian** had planned for us just east of **Caerwys**! At the top of this, near **Babell** we stopped for cake at the newly opened "**Blend 92 at The Black**" cafe - looked good for a future ride destination. From there it was up to **Halkyn** and then downhill all the way home, with people leaving at various points.

From Chris S...

C ride to Carr Farm Garden Centre

Brian M kindly stepped in at the last minute to lead this ride. I have been concerned that we aren't able to offer sufficient shorter, (dare I say easier) rides but only four people turned up for this ride. I noticed from their **Facebook** page that the **Wirral Cycling Group** attracted some of our regular riders to go to **The Pipers in Chester**. I can't blame the **Acolytes** since they had no separate ride, so I don't know why this ride was not more popular - maybe it was the destination itself or its location - I think we need to consider whether **Carr Farm** should stay on the rides list next year. I must admit I don't like it myself.

Text by Chris L and Chris S

Photos by Chris L