

The Bull, Shocklach - 25th April 2018

Mine First!

A large turnout once more. **Chris L** split the main group into two of around ten, taking one himself and **Chris and Sue** taking the second. **Brian L** also had his small group taking an independent route. **Chris** took the first group down **Chapel Lane** and **Chris D** saw the opportunity to overtake by going down **Capenhurst Lane** and getting in front. Once we reached **Capenhurst** we met **Brian J** and added four to our numbers.

When we reached the pub we joined a few who had made their own way, so there must have been around thirty all told.

Sandwiches and chips were quickly served for those who wanted them. **Brian L's** group who preferred to eat from the menu had already ordered, but had a long wait for their food as the pub focused on the rest of us.



There was some concern about the route home as we discovered the road back towards **Aldford** and **Chester** was closed for resurfacing. **Andy** set off first with a posse of mostly **Wirral Cycling Group** members. This was followed by the rest of the riders mainly in the groups

they had started in. When we stopped for the traffic lights on the **Farndon/Holt bridge** **Andy** rejoined us having lost his entire group who had decided to turn right in **Farndon** and ride past the **Memorial**. This would appear to have taken them towards the closed road again? The rest of us proceeded towards the **Saltney Ferry bridge** and home.

Thanks to **Chris** for his excellent work dealing with such large numbers and adapting the route to deal with the road closure.

From Chris L...



Wednesday's forecast was a little dodgy but we managed to sit outside at the **Eureka** and although a mite chilly we were able to dodge any rain. About nineteen or twenty of us were waiting over the road (can't say bus stop anymore) splitting into two groups of ten - only eight came with me (I'm beginning to get a complex) and the second group passed me as I turned down **Chapel Lane** while they took the shorter **Capenhurst road**! We stopped at **Waverton** where **Brian**, Sylvia and three others joined us (good to see **Dave and Sue Webb** out and about) Apparently, **Jane M.** had shot off in pursuit of some other cyclists although she was at the pub before us! A pleasant ride via **Tattenhall** ensued but en-route to **Clutton** there was a mighty chasm of a flooded road where we all got a little damp. **Dave and Sue** decided not to risk it (hidden potholes?) and went back around.

The Bull was very welcoming, good beer and sandwiches arrived in good time, plates a tad on the small side but reasonable quality and maybe light on the chips. **Jane** had suggested brown bread for all but too late to adjust the order



- there were a few left (all white) - future leaders please note!



Brian L had informed me that my intended route back was closed (I had reccied this the previous Friday with no notices showing) and so it proved - so we went back via **Rossett** and **Saltney Ferry**. **Sue's** back with her jelly-babies to encourage us home - fifty miles and 1140 ft climb.

Chris Smith

Photos by Chris Lamb