

Cottage Loaf, Thurstaston - 2nd January 2019

Eleven very hardy and frosty riders assembled at **Eureka** on Wednesday morning. I suspect the temperature was still below zero when we left, retracing some of my route out from home (*although it had warmed a tad!*) - everyone was well wrapped up. The sun was out but too low to have any effect - not a morning for riding south on the High Road! There had been little rain over the previous week so whilst temperatures were low the roads were not icy!

The Cottage Loaf

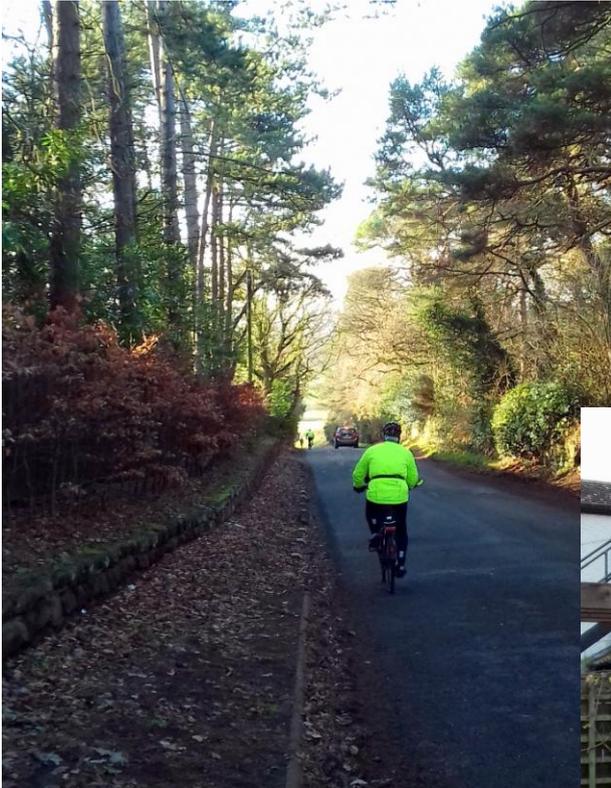
John F had been at the **Tudor Rose** dishing out some new long sleeve tops and was going home to get on his bike hoping to find us en route; hence we stopped a couple of times, rang him in **Eastham Village** and eventually met up with him in **Bromborough**

(*us having stopped to admire the mill pond that was the Mersey - and have bananas*).

Chris S had successfully called the pub - after several earlier attempts - to give numbers and eta.! Is this the first occasion where every cyclist was eating in the venue?



I should point out that this was **Brian M's** route but at the last minute he was unable to lead so **Chris S** gallantly stepped in to the breach, so he can be forgiven for any uncertainty regarding the route! We eventually found the path up to **Port Sunlight** and through parts of **Bebington** - catching sight of **Steve G** (*Hello Steve*) - and a nice run down to **Storeton**. **Margaret** had joined us earlier trying out her new, shiny e-bike. We stopped at **Barnston** to regroup again before the dip and realised we'd lost **John**; he eventually rolled up with a front brake not working properly, and a check didn't seem to show up any obvious issue - lever and cable doing what they should and pads still there!



After this the route was fairly unfamiliar to most of us but **Chris's** interpretation worked well and **Woodchurch**, **Upton** and **Moreton** were all successfully passed before the more familiar **Heron Rd** to **Greasby**, **Irby** and **Thurstaston**.



Peter W and **Margaret** had taken a shorter route via **Arrowe Park** and were already enjoying their lunch - service was friendly, prompt and tasty.

I can't comment on the ride home; a lot of riders seemed to be making their own way back as I did. There were thirteen for lunch, a good turnout for such a cool day - I think it reached 3deg by lunchtime! Thanks **Chris/Brian** for the ride. See you all again soon.

PS. I was not anticipating being out on my bike, my expected surgery (minor stitches to shin) has been put back but is still imminent! Just in case anyone was wondering. ...

Photos and text by Chris L.