

# 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

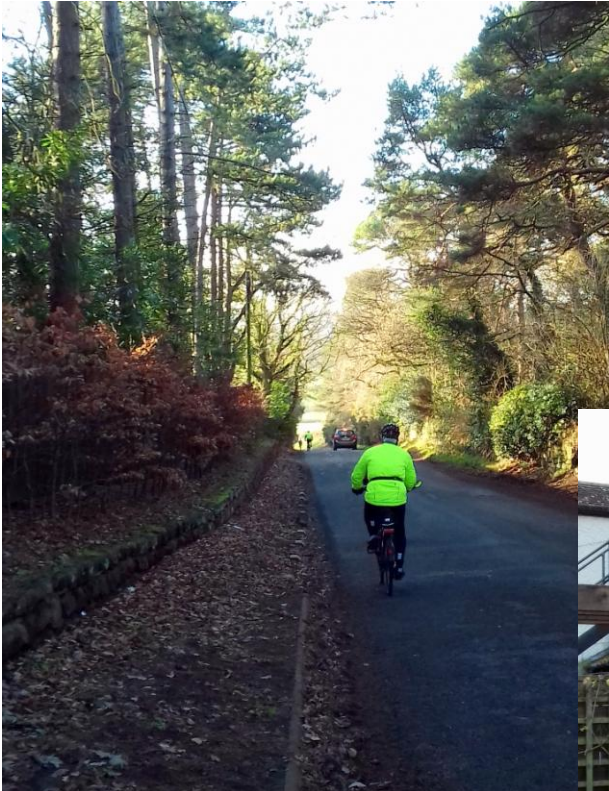
**John F** had been at the **Tudor Rose** dishing out some new long sleeve tops and was going home to get on his bike hoping to find us en route; hence we stopped a couple of times, rang him in **Eastham Village** and eventually met up with him in **Bromborough**

(*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.**