

The Wheatsheaf, Upton - 17th January 2018

The ride was of course cancelled due to the strong winds forecast. However five of us turned up regardless and after some discussion **John F** offered to lead those who wanted to go, over the **Halkyns to Holywell!** Not the most obvious choice on a day when strong winds were forecast, but **John A** and I agreed to go with him. **Margaret S** and **Bob W** decided to stay on the plains and set off to the original destination of the **Wheatsheaf**.

The two **John's** and **I** set off but by the time we reached **Northop** the sky went black and fearing a downpour with associated strong gusts we decided to seek shelter in **The Boot**. It was unfortunately closed.

Undaunted **John** then took us to a café recommended to him by **Mike C**. This was not just closed but appeared to have been closed for some years. I have since done some research and it appears to have been called "**The Tea Station**" and had been in the old **Police Station**.

The latest information about it being open that I could find was however dated 2013!

The Red Lion

Still optimistic, we went to the **Red Lion** which at first attempt appeared, you guessed, closed. However as we were leaving a

passerby suggested trying another door, which was open. Once inside we inquired if they were open? Well, said someone I took to be the **Landlord**, sucking his teeth as if he was a builder, "*If you just want coffee, I may be able to find someone to make you one*". That was all we needed and we were soon drinking our coffees. By the time



this was done the weather had improved and we decided to press on over the hills. The weather was generally pretty good it has to be said, and with lots of warnings from **John** about not going too fast down the hills we found our way to **Holywell** and enjoyed the best that the **Market Cross (Weatherspoons)** could offer us. Then it was all downhill back home - said **John**, well almost, he said, forgetting to mention there was a climb of 22% along the way. It was short though and soon we were back on

English soil.

**Wetherspoons
Holywell**



**The Wheatsheaf
Upton**



I had arranged to meet my daughter at **Net's** at the end of the ride, spoiling **John's** plan to include a third pub, by going to the **Harp**. When we arrived there **Margaret** was also there, having completed a very enjoyable ride to **The Wheatsheaf** with **Bob**. A good day had by all five of us. I hope the rest of you found something productive to do as well!

Chris Smith