

# Whittington Castle - 10th July 2019

From Paul M...

Three riders turned up at the Eureka Café for an eighty mile ride to Whittington Castle via Gwersyllt which included Bob who intended to do the Gwersyllt run and then return home, leaving only Brian and myself with the full distance - perhaps a combination of route, distance and leader were not tempting enough, or everyone was feeling the effects of the Tri-Vets 100.

We arrived at Gwersyllt to see only Richard B and Penyfford Pete in civvies, joined later by Jane + 4.

First shock of the day was how steep the path is at the other end of the underpass. I need to select a much lower gear next time; this was followed by more upward pointing roads eventually reaching Penycae where we were down to seven with one having turned back feeling knee pain on Hall Lane. We had a stop at Trevor Basin café and then followed the canal towpath reverting to walking over the viaduct (look straight ahead and don't look down). Going through Chirk tunnels was a new one on me - it felt a bit ghostly - eventually reaching Whittington Castle café.



There was a slight problem when the kitchens electricity went off and two of the ordered foods could not be made but the staff were very apologetic. Having changed the order and received sandwiches in lieu of the lack of electricity - it then came back on after a fuse change, ho hum.

On the return back Richard offered an alternative route to Chester via Cleopatra's so Richard, Brian and myself set off with Richard in turbo mode. The first half to Cleopatra's

was fast and furious when we had a very close shave with a fast **Peugeot** hatchback coming round a bend; thank goodness the road was a 1½ car width and we were riding to the left, otherwise all three of us would have been wiped out. The second half I paid for the riding speed so far, so slowed considerably back through Chester. A hold-up revealed an impasse between a car and a van with both sides not looking to move any time soon; fortunately bicycles could pass. We all parted company at various points along the **Greenway**. Excellent route from **Jane** and thanks to everybody else on the ride.

### **Paul M**

### **From Chris S...**

I was supposed to be in **Stamford** last Wednesday but in fact was in bed with flu! **Chris L** was busy with a recce for a **Llandegla** ride so I was pleased to see the above review from **Paul M** appear on **Facebook**. With so many of the usual **Strava** users away I didn't expect to see much on "flybys" but did find records from **Richard B** and **Rich Coffee**. **Richard** had started from home in **Chester** and **Rich** from **Gwersyllt**. Do you think **Richard** got to **Chester** or **Rich** to **Gwersyllt** first?

[This Flyby](#) tells all!