

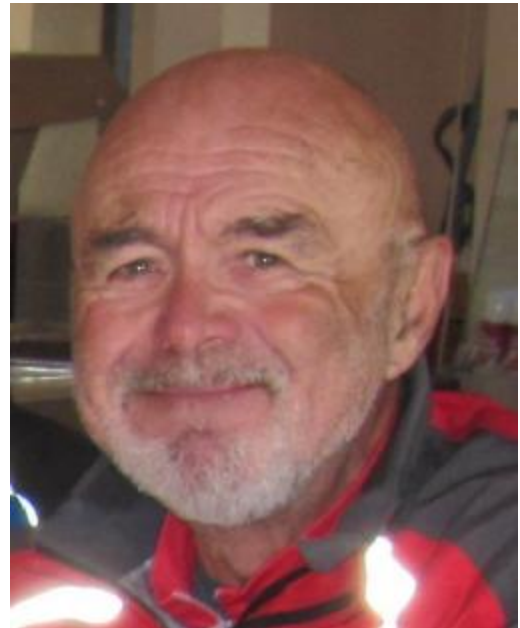
CTC Two Mills Ride Route 5 – 2nd May 2010

Alan W and I arrived at Gronant near Prestatyn for the start of the ride, parked up in the Caravan Park and headed to the Crofters Pantry to meet the others.



Alan

We were wondering if we'd got the wrong place when George turned up. We'd already ordered bacon butties and tea when three became five.



Just what we needed!



What to have?

Jim



Jim & Co for breakfast!

Our two intrepid campers Janet and Jim arrived and then Ted and Chris. Thank goodness. It was Jim's ride so at least we had a leader. It was cold with light winds, but hooray - it wasn't raining!

The final tally of seven set off but not before we'd had a group photo taken by the very friendly owner - and by popular request, a photo taken of Chris's knees and superclean shoes.



Chris's superclean shoes



Seven Starters

At Rhyl we were joined by Alan M so now we were eight.



George reverted to childhood whimsy and sailed along the wall – what balance!

The weather perked up and with the wind behind us we were soon sailing along...until we reached the windblown sand at Kinmel Bay. Walking and pushing were the only options...except for George.



At Pensarn we passed Pam and Mike going in the opposite direction on the cycle path. The path was narrow and we were all going at such a steady lick that we didn't stop to say hello. We were so heads down that some of our group didn't even see them. Sorry Mike and Pam!

Part of the cycleway was closed due to a high tide but Alan M guided us up a path, under a bridge, back down to the cycleway and on to the Conway Marina for 11ses. By that time we were well off schedule and desperate for a drink. No...we didn't go into the pub but a café round the corner in the main street. Near the pub a lady in Welsh costume stood patiently outside the door of the 'Smallest House in Wales' waiting for customers to visit the house, and trying to look busy with her souvenirs.



Parked up for 11ses

The Smallest House in Wales

A rough bit of path out of Conway took us to Rhos-on-Sea and a look at St Trillo's Chapel at Rhos point.

The tiny chapel is dedicated to St Elian and is built on the site of a Holy Well - a place of worship since the 6th Century.





Lunch stop in Penmaenmawr

Duly refreshed we ploughed on around a very rough path and a bit of Route 5 that skirted the A55, to our final stop at Penmaenmawr for lunch. Jim had thought we would make Llanfairfechan for lunch but we were 45 minutes off schedule. No wonder we missed Michael Doyle who was planning to meet us at some point. Sorry Mike!

The menu provoked a chat about 'cawl' mentioned in Bob's last report. Not "something from a new-born to bring fertility" - but Welsh for 'soup' apparently.

The café didn't appear to have a name – so - no photo.

We rode a bit further on to see the new Pen-y-Clip Bridge to take a couple more photos. First we had to climb up to the main road which Jim described as a dogs' toilet – and he wasn't kidding. All the dogs in Penmaenmawr must have been there at some time for 'walkies'.



Walking up to see the Pen-y-Clip foot bridge



Pen-y-Clip Tunnel and new footbridge



Puffin Island in the background



Ted was very keen to include Puffin Island in the background of the photo (above) and Jim was equally keen for us to see the newly-completed tarmac on the cycle path soon after we started the return ride.

New tarmac on the cycle path

Janet found a sculpture of giant mussels at Conway Marina and Jim led us back over Conway Bridge with the castle in the background.



The sun stayed with us until our final stop at Pensarn for yet another very welcome cuppa. With Alan M's local knowledge we diverted away from the sand at Kinmel Bay, but from then on it was into a strong head wind. Heads down to Gronant - arriving back at 6.50pm having covered 63 miles of Route 5. It was a brilliant day – very enjoyable, sunshine most of the way and so many interesting things to see.

Many thanks Jim.

Glennys (your temporary scribe and photographer)

