

Pistyll Rhaeadr and Lily's Coffee Shop, Aldford

22nd August 2018

The A ride to Pistyll Rhaeadr

From Chris L...



This week the Wednesday Riders went to **Pistyll Rhaeadr** ably led by **Richard Barrett**. Sixteen of us set off at 9.30am from **Chirk** after a pleasant coffee at the **Castle Bistro**, following the B4500 to **Llanarmon** at a very gentle 3% gradient (so **Richard** told me). This would have been a lovely ride had the surface not been spread with loose gravel recently making it hard to ride on with any sense of confidence!



The Falls





A short banana stop at **The Hand** before tackling the first meaningful hill (mean hill!), a few found they had to push for a bit with a short break at the top but as we all know "what goes up must come down", that proved to be a bit hairy; uneven surface and a nasty turn at the bottom! There were one or two lumps here too but mostly a clear run through a valley and a few miles running up to the falls.

The **Tan-y-Pistyll Café** staff at **Pistyll Rhaeadr** were not over impressed to see us saying we weren't expected - although **Richard** had given them plenty of warning; the service was poor - some coffee and tea orders not showing up without prompting! A bit pricey given the



quality; I suppose they have a captive market, but they won't be vying for '**Café of the Year!**' The **Falls** themselves were spectacular even though the water flow was light given the recent weather. It cost 20p to use the facilities - some of the ladies trying to get two for the price of one nearly had an embarrassing incident!



We then rode down the valley to follow the **B4396** at **Llynclys** (kept to groups of four here so as not to upset the traffic on what can be a busy road - it worked well), then followed the road north through **Oswestry Industrial Estate** to **Weston Rhyn** for an ice cream before coasting back. An easy ride compared to the outward trip. Thanks **Richard** for an excellent ride, even the expected rain kept away (chucking it down in **Birkenhead** when I got back).

Text from Chris L

Photos by John F

Alternatives ride to Aldford Village Store Coffee Shop

From Brian L...

We had three pleasant surprises before setting off. Firstly **Glennys** suggested a new venue, **Peter W** has got himself an ebike and admits to it being a new dimension, and thirdly we saw the arrival of someone who we thought was a new member but turned out to be one of our own stalwarts. **Brian** was overheard to say "Does anybody know who that is in the **C&NW jersey** being served to which there was a general negative response". Having joined us at the table he was instantly recognisable and here he is. It is **Alan O** who is back in business and was soundly welcomed by the group



Alan O

We quickly learned that there was no need to worry about his fitness as he had ridden to the **Pet Cemetery** on Tuesday. Welcome back **Alan**.



Six of us, **Glennys**, Peter in “eco” setting, David S. Roy, Alan and Brian L increased to seven by **Tony S** joining us in **Woodbank** set off for **Lily's Coffee Shop** in the Aldford Village Store, the new venue proposed by **Glennys** (highly recommended by **Watson's Wanderers**). We took a spontaneously devised route to the **Greenway**, **Pipers Ash**, **Christleton Pond** with banana stop then onward to **Waverton** **Tattenhall**, **Chowley**, **Coddington**, **Churton** and **Aldford** some 27 miles.

**Lily's Cafe and
Aldford Village Store**



The venue, surely it will be a candidate for “Café of the Year,” and can only be described as first class with very friendly

and welcoming staff and a good quality and value menu.

There is always one of course and **Brian** was heard to moan that he had only ordered an “ordinary sausage batch” because he had not seen the “posh sausage batch” alternative as sampled by **David and Tony**.



With a threat of afternoon showers we opted for a direct route back via **Bruera**, **Huntington**, the **canal** and the **Greenway**. Halfway down **Lightfoot Street** we sampled the local wildlife when a huge rat (well a bxxxxy big one at least)

scampered across the road in front of us. Our leader could probably have run over it but did not see it as fair game as it was moving quite slowly for a rat. Some opined that it only had three legs, a variety perhaps unique to **Chester** but others that it was just limping.

Alan and Tony stayed on the **Greenway** whilst the rest of us continued to the **Eureka** having ridden just fifteen miles from **Aldford**. Good venue and well spotted **Glennys**. A very enjoyable day out.

Text from Brian

Photos from Brian and Glennys

(Details for **Lily's Café** at Aldford can be found on the Cafés and Pubs list on our website.)