

## Rake and Pikel, Huntington - 3rd February 2016 & Presentation of 'Cafe of the Year 2015'

Besides today's ride to the **Rake and Pikel**, there was also a delegation to the **Meadow Lea Farm Coffee Shop** to present them with the **Café of the Year 2015** award, voted for by our members. **Glennys** along with **Mike C.** then made their way to the **Rake and Pikel**, We must try a visit to its twinned pub the *Cheese & Pickel* sometime. Although **Glennys** took about five with her, it still left twenty for me to lead to the venue - with a tail wind and sunshine.

We started by going down **Woodbank** before turning to **Saughall**. It was very enjoyable as we went over much



travelled lanes to the **Greenway** before coming off at **Blacon** and down to the **Dee** at **Saltney**. When we got to **Bretton** we got the first of three punctures, but after a brief chat we decided to leave a few riders and head off; it would be easier for the pub to cope if we arrived at different times.



We headed to **Dodleston**, then just before **Rossett** got our second flat - again - leaving a few to fix it, we carried on to the pub. There was a very dark cloud threatening towards **Wales** so it was fingers crossed we would make it to the pub (it didn't rain). As we crossed the **Dee** in **Holt** the third puncture struck in **Farndon**. I think it was **Peter**, who said he would be fine. It was like the cliché about the buses - and then then three the same day (Hawthorn season?).

Despite these mishaps we seemed to arrive within ten minutes of each other **Mike C.** and **Glennys** said the cafe owners couldn't have been more pleased if we had given them £1,000, great, as you know the cafe is situated too close to the **Eureka** to be a lunch stop, but good for elevenses - they sell exceedingly good cakes.



Bob and Jill added to our numbers, with George and

Ada. Ada, recovering from a chest infection bravely started off on her bike, got half a mile, and got the fourth puncture of the day - she went home and came in the caThe staff at the pub helped add to a very friendly atmosphere - I did notice though that the chips looked like those microwave ones. A surprise though was to find prunes in the Cock-a-leekie soup.

Our return went into Chester and around the bike factory to the Greenway which was a little sheltered but we were into the wind to the bridge. Here Marie, Peter and Dave chose to take in the marshes back to the Eureka.

We went down Woodbank to finish, where I thanked myself for a brilliantly led ride, apart from those horrible punctures.

Well it was on the 3rd of February, the so-called day the music died in 1959, that a plane crash killed Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, The Big Bopper. But on the up side Frankie Vaughan was born same date. Then back on the down side it was in Huntington where the ex player and current manager of Wales Gary Speed lived and on the 27th November 2011, he sadly killed himself.

P.S.Looking at John's pic's the one on entering the greenway was he on top of a telegraph pole or using a drone?

**Chris Byrne**

**Photos by John Ferguson**

## Cafe of the Year presentation - 3rd February 2015 to Meadow Lea Farm Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop was voted 'Café of the Year 2015' by our members. Timing was a bit tight so a short ride from the Eureka was necessary. A small group of riders set off from the lay by including Bob W, Sylvia and Brian J and Peter, and headed down a much-travelled route via the A5117 cycle path through Stoak to Mickle Trafford and the café. Jill and Bob and George and Ada arrived - Mike C was already there wearing his regalia as President of Chester and North Wales CTC and after drinks all round he presented the Certificate to Barbara (owner) and her staff. With my few riders we made a decent little group for the presentation.



### Presentation to Barbara and staff at the Café

We arrived at the pub first followed soon by the main group. If they hadn't had three punctures they would have got their orders in before us. Only three of our little group set off back to the Eureka - Bob, Peter and myself, but the sun still shone so it was a pleasant ride back via the Greenway and Saughall.



Text and photos by Glennys