

Cycling for Softies

The Cycling for Softies group meets on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday each month at Lime Wood Fields, Kingsway, Newton, (Opposite the parade of Shops), and cycles typically 20 to 30 miles along cycle paths and quiet country lanes of Cheshire and Flintshire. There is a sub group (known as Easy Riders) who have rides on the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday for people who wish to regain the enjoyment of cycling but want to travel less distance.



Once a year we have a special ride at a different location and this year in late September we rode along the canal from Llangollen to Chirk and back. The ride began at Horseshoe Falls, where the canal starts by drawing water from the River Dee.



After passing the Llangollen Wharf and International Eisteddford site we reached Llangollen where horses, Togg, Geordie and Stan pull barges full of tourists along this World Heritage site. We enjoyed the stunning views across The Vale of Llangollen before stopping at the Telford Inn by the Trevor Basin for teas and coffee.

Once refreshed we pushed our bikes across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct built by Thomas Telford and William Jessop in 1805 and is the tallest canal boat crossing in the world,



There followed a charming ride to the 170 metre Whitehouse Tunnel. Manoeuvring cycles along the towpath while passing oncoming travellers in darkness was good practice for the later Chirk Tunnel which is 421 metres long.



Immediately after the Chirk tunnel is the aqueduct which is adjacent to the railway viaduct. After two tunnels and two aqueducts we felt we deserved refreshments so ate our sandwiches by the canal side while watching the boats sail by. We then retraced the route to complete the 22 mile ride. If you would like to know more about this group or want to join a ride contact: tgarner25@gmail.com for the longer rides or gerryweatherstn@yahoo.co.uk for the shorter rides.