

“Alternatives” Ride to Aldford - 19th September 2018

What was immediately noticeable when I entered the **Eureka** on Wednesday morning last was the unusually quiet atmosphere, empty tables and a dearth of regular cyclists. Those absent had no doubt bowed to the threat of the severely windy weather forecast.

Wednesday Riders however were represented by two regular “Alternatives”, **Glennys and Brian L**, plus **Tony B**, a normally regular main group rider who, to quote the words used by our **Rides Secretary**, were the only “hardy/adventurous souls” (or did somebody say foolhardy/adventurous souls) willing to brave the elements.

As is often the norm with the “Alternatives” some discussion took place about possible venues - and taking a cautious approach in the circumstances we headed for **Lily's Café** in **Aldford** on the basis that if things got too rough we could soon beat a hasty retreat.



We proceeded down **Woodbank** to **Saughall** and down to the **Greenway** without much ado albeit with the wind generally in our faces - and onwards to **Christleton Pit** for a banana stop. I would normally have written **Christleton Pond** but we were soon in conversation with a friendly local man who was wearing his “**Christleton Pit**” endorsed T-shirt and who willingly us on the straight and

narrow and educated us with a few pertinent facts about the Pit. So **Christleton Pit** it should be from now on.



We continued on our way to **Waverton** and **Saighton** and onward to **Lily's café** at **Aldford**. The food was good quality and this time I remembered the “**posh sausage sandwich**” which I had missed on our last visit. For sausage connoisseurs the option uses garlic and herb sausage on caramelised onion and marmalade. Scrumptious.

Getting ready for departure there seemed to have been an increase in wind speed and this was emphasised when **Glennys' and Tony's bikes** which were locked together and leaning on a bench suddenly decided to move a foot of their own accord, an indication of increased wind intensity. We decided to head directly back to the **Eureka** through **Bruera**, **Huntington** and the **Greenway** with the wind generally at our backs .

In conclusion, although we rode only 32 miles round trip it was well worth the effort and other than avoidance of the inevitable ground debris, was straightforward in spite of the blustery wind.

Text by Brian L

Photos by Glennys