

Chester Lakes Café, Balderton - March 9th 2016

Not a bad turn out on such a windy day. Fourteen of us were willing to follow **Mike M** to the **Lake District** (no not that one) - the one up the road in **Balderton**.

Mike had planned a good route which took us through the **missing link**, **Willaston**, **Burton** and along the marshes to the **blue bridge**.



Then we had our two climbs, one up to **Hawarden**, then up through the **Bilberry Woods**, also known as the **Dingly Dell**.

There were only three women on the ride; this may have been due to some being hung over after celebrating **International Women's Day** yesterday. It was started in **New York** in 1909 to commemorate a strike in 1908 by garment workers organised by the **Socialist Party of America**. It was declared a national holiday in the **Soviet Union** in 1917. Thankfully these days women like **Victoria Pendleton** are on horses, NOT heroically throwing themselves under them! A purple ribbon is often worn.

Meanwhile back on the ride we were being blown to our destination and remaining dry. After passing the **Jimmy Hendrix** tree it was all downhill, going through **Kinnerton** to the café.



The **Fishermans café** is undergoing a rebuild, but the port-a-cabin was comfortable and the food was good, reasonably priced and served with a smile. Already eating were the B team made up of **Brian L, Mike K, Roy B, Brian S**, all sharing a table with **Bob and Jill**.



We knew the return would be difficult into the wind but it would be a lot shorter, and as we crossed the **Dee** (in flood) the side winds caught us, I remember thinking “Beware the Tides of march” We had left the café in two groups and we thanked **Mike** for planning an enjoyable ride.



Unfortunately I got a slow puncture near **Woodbank** but managed to limp to the **Wheatsheaf** with three pump ups, although I had to push it home from there. I bought the inner tube from **Halfords**, they only had **Chris Boardman** long valves and I think the rubber is very thin.



P.S. R.I.P. **George Martin** (5th Beatle)

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson

