

Wednesday Alternatives' Ride to Cleopatra's, Holt

As the whole Wednesday Riders group poured out of the **Eureka Café** entrance, just after 10 am, it was strange seeing one large group heading for the traffic lights, while the other group crossed the road to go in the opposite direction. Such are the numbers now we have to commence our rides in an opposite direction?!



Nine of us left and headed for **Woodbank**, to pick up **Tony S**, who had radioed ahead to make contact for pickup. This made by my count three electrics - enough to provide pace on the front should we need it. - more of this later.

Although I still not quite sure of our route and destination [several had been suggested. We carried on, turned along **Lodge Lane**, towards **Saughall** and the **Cycleway** taking the direct route through the centre of the village, giving **Tony S** a chance to modulate his 'chipped' electric bike over the bridge.

On to **Blacon** and the **river** via the **Mosque** route, **Sealand Road**, **cycleway** and **Ferry Lane**, then over the footbridge onto the **Broughton Road**, turning for Bretton and a 'banana' stop at the triangle - except we were without a single banana!

Here, **Tony S** performed some minor adjustments to **Margaret's** new 'lecky' bike, whereupon she hared off in the direction of **Dodleston**, chasing some of one of the other groups that had just passed us. In **Dodleston** our leader gently chastised us as to the need to stay together, and we set off collectively, **Karl** stocially keeping station with his constant flashing red rear light keeping us on track, to **Pulford**, where we found **Margaret** with two from the other group, wondering where we were.

We thanked them for their diligence, but instead of turning left for the **Grosvenor Garden Centre**, we turned right heading for **Rosset**. Ah, I thought it's the **Nags Head in Lavister**, but no, past we went, up **Darland Lane** heading for **Holt**.

It was after this on the endless headwinded road to **Holt** that I realised how hungry I was, not least as we headed up the Holt road and feeling the need for lunch.

Once there the service was excellent, with paninis being the order of the day. I had the all day breakfast, and with my big ADB eyes noticed that the group seemed to have doubled in size! [see photo]. There was much talk of how smart our tops look, especially when we disrobed the top layer [or three in **Penyffords Pete's** case].



It was all very sociable, comment being made as to a good representative

female selection [20%], and **Brian** offering to go back via **Kinnerton** to accompany **Tony S** before he 'took off' to **Buckley**. **Alan S** had already left to go via **Chester**.

Back to **Rosset** we went with a lovely tailwind, what a difference, then **Burton Green**, **Kinnerton**, and on to **Saltney** and the river, before which **Peter W** turned off for a more direct route, saving a few bars no doubt. A little debate here as to directions, but the river route won out, with quite a comfortable ride, [in my sheltered echelon position anyway]. On we went towards the **A494 bridge**, then a turn off for the main group, where **Margaret and I** carried on, and the group, now five made their way back via **Deeside Zone 1** and **Woodbank Lane**.

A great social ride thanks **Brian** and **everyone**.

Text by Alan O

Group Photo by Brian L