

Okells Garden Centre - 20th March 2019

From Alan O...

Twenty-eight riders made it onto the start line on 'Peter Williams Way' opposite the Eureka Café for the start of the ride to Okells.

The first group of six set off (*there were eight actually Alan, we were joined by Alasdair and Bridget in Capenhurst*), led by Bruce, were to do the extra five miles that Chris S had 'garminised' for them. I had tried the route on a recce but Chris told me I had only produced two extra miles, so nobody was going that way!

Next were the six 'Alternatives' - no they do not all ride electric bikes, that is not why they are called the alternatives, but enough said there, off they went.

Next up were the eight 'fast' main group led by Harry, Brian or Mike, not sure which, followed by the 'sociable' group led by me, although they were not called that because I hadn't any breath for chat, but only supposedly for the pace. More of that later.

Off we went, departing the horrible A540 into tranquil lanes, keeping the main group in sight until we reached the turn-off for Rake Lane that the fast group missed - so they were behind us. They caught and passed us as we waited for a few of our back markers towards Chorlton. At Mickle Trafford we passed the Alternatives stopping for a breather, then caught up the fast main group at the pond in Christleton as they stopped - as did we. They started off soon after, but inexplicably stopped again on Brown Heath Lane, where we passed them, perhaps waiting for a 'hare'/tortoise to chase. We duly obliged, and they came past again on Guy Lane heading towards Hargrave.

All groups arrived at Okells within twenty minutes of each other I think, but to no avail, as the place was crowded, (not with other cyclists - the 'grazing' gardener sort) it being I think the warmest day of the year.

Jill and Bob Wiitton, and George and Ada Lewis were already there, so thirty in total. We all sat where we could, and in typical Okells style, we were soon all served .

The journey back continued in the same manner, with the 'fast' main group passing us, and **Jane M** even swopping groups, but because of a digression in the route/garmin plot we were all reunited at **Blacon**, as we waited there to divide our numbers. We continued as one main group, (still fast), but stayed together.

A great day out, thanks to **Chris S** for the 'Garmin' plot, and all you silver cyclists for a good day.

Alan O

