

Old Ma's, Tattenhall - 14th November 2018

I was not feeling too well when I got to the **Eureka** on Wednesday so tried to keep a low profile when **Andy** was trying to organise the groups. **Richard B** volunteered to lead a faster group along the same route and seven of them quickly set off, but there were still too many for **Andy** to lead in one group. **Andy** spotted me lurking at the back and asked if I would lead a separate group. How could I refuse? **Richard** had picked the **Marina** and **Andy** was going to **Old Ma's** so I thought I would try **Alison's Country Kitchen** in **Tattenhall**.



Most people took the opportunity to set off with **Andy** so just four were left behind with me! **Brian J** said he was only with us till 11:30am and must then return home. Once we reached the A5117 cycle path we found **Dave** with a mudguard problem and **Ian** trying to help. They joined us temporarily so we were up to seven now! At **Mickle Trafford** we met **Andy's** group having a banana stop. They seemed unconcerned about the their two riders we had rescued, but very anxious about a lost mudguard from another rider (no prizes for guessing who, if I say it's far from the first time something fell off his bike on a ride!). **Dave** took the opportunity to join back up with them and on we went. At times we were in danger of catching up with Andy's group and I tried to hold back my little team. **Ruth** had taken to riding on the front seemed surprised when I asked her to slow down. Eventually we found them stopped for the third time and had no choice but to surge past! My breathing was not coming easily and I wondered about new techniques to slow the group down.

I also wondered how we would find the café, which I didn't even know the name of! Several others said they had heard of it and the consensus was that it was on the right in the middle of the village. We rode through and saw nothing before coming to a stop at the Southern end of the village by the rather posh looking eatery near the junction. Not for us we thought and I checked on my phone for the intended destination. Ahh, **Alison's Country Kitchen**,



in the centre of the village, but on the opposite side of the road. We easily found it this time. Lots of space at the back for outdoor eating on a better day and also for bike parking. It was a very nice café which I would recommend to you all, not big enough for a large group though.

Lunch over we found our way back to the intended route and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon riding home, people gradually splitting off. It's always hard to find an interesting route for these winter rides, but **Andy** did a great job with a few little travelled lanes, and including the very leafy **Caldy Valley cycle path**. I assume the service at **Old Ma's** was better this year since they were on the road again before we were we saw no more of them. By 15:30 I was enjoying an early pint at the **Harp** watching the sun go down. Many thanks to Andy Richard

Chris L

A little note from Glennys

Peter W and I made our own way to **Old Ma's** where we were very pleased to see **Bob and Jill**. **Bob** was delighted to meet another rider who quite by chance had some shared memories of long (very long) ago when they both served abroad. They quickly exchanged details with promises to contact each other by email. The service was a little better as there weren't many people there but after **Andy's** group arrived the queue lengthened considerably. We returned to the **Eureka** in time for a refreshing drink and **Tunnocks!**