

Old Town Hall Vaults, Whitchurch - 2nd April 2014

Despite warnings of air pollution and a good chance of rain, it had no effect on the turn out to ride to **Whitchurch**. Seventeen joined **Alan Oldfield**, and another five left 30mins earlier with **Brian Lowe** leading, yet another group left for the **Foresters** in **Tarporley**, very encouraging numbers.

Alan's group were nearing **Kinnerton** when he had rear wheel tyre malfunction, the pit stop didn't take long this is a man who builds his own bikes (must fit crap tyres). Then it was on to **Holt** for a banana stop, one of our lady riders looked like she was rehearsing her disco moves, but it transpired there was a problem with the pay as you pee lock on the loo door.



Your reporter going downhill rapidly! (No comments thanks)

We then crossed the **Dee** into good old **Blighty**. **Alan's** research was paying off as we rode lane after lane traffic free and on arrival at **The Old Town Hall Vaults** our sandwiches and chips were ready and waiting for us. There is a plaque in the pub commemorating the birth of **Sir Edward German** on the premises (1862-1936). He was the musical director of the **Globe Theatre** in **London** who wrote symphonies, but did not write "Roll out the barrel" or "your drunk, your drunk, you silly old skunk" as was rumoured.

Whitchurch is so named because of the white stone the church was built from (bit of history there folks).

Alan led us home again on a very good route heading to the **Ice Cream Farm** for a tea break, on the way I was intrigued by a conversation **John Ferguson** was having with **Julie**; they were discussing their favourite birds, when suddenly **John** said "did you hear that" it sounded like a green woodpecker. **Julie** said "you really know your birds, **John**". I thought it was a red woodpecker but I didn't want to show him up.

While we are on the subject what do you think of the breaking rumour that the R.S.P.B. want to prevent cyclists using the marshes. Where are these twitchers coming from? I think we should get together with **Sustrans**, arrange a meeting with the twitchers on the marshes and get **John**, because he has a foot in both camps to give a signal and we charge each other and the winners use the marshes.

Alan has set the bar high and it will be hard for the rest of us to follow. Also well done **Brian** for leading a long ride so soon into your comeback .

Christopher Byrne