

Main Group, Susan's Cafe, Drury 20th Feb 2019

'Alternatives', Alison's Kitchen Tattenhall

From Paul M...

Twenty plus riders assembled for a ride to **Susan's Café at Drury** which was a changed ride from the published program due to **Chris L** being indisposed (hence this ride report). Led by **Peter L** it had originally been organised a few weeks ago but had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

We intended to split into three groups and duly set off with only six of us making up the first group, heading for **Hawarden Bridge** to meet up with today's ride leader, **Peter L** waiting with **Mari**. As we were only six and **Peter** having to wait for the other groups, **Mari** was persuaded to join us at least for the out ride.

We did a usual exploration of alternative roads from the published route, obviously in pursuit of good group cohesion and admirably achieved with bonhomie and good humour.

The first group this time actually arrived first, and leisurely awaited the other group's arrivals before getting the very acceptable organised soup and sandwiches.

The return route was determined as so demanding it necessitated another pit stop at "**Chocks Away**" and with only one free table and it having six seats it must have been fate we stopped there.

Crossing the **Dee**, with barely any wind we chose to deviate and go along the river instead, parting company at various points along the way. Heading nearer home I looked up to see the new **Beluga plane** on its landing approach, perhaps that's why "**Chocks Away**" was so busy today.

'Alternates' Ride to Allison's Country Kitchen, Tattenhall

A suggestion from **Glennys** that we visit "**Alisons**" in **Tattenhall**, a new venue for me, was quickly signed onto by the group and twelve souls good and true set off from the **Eureka**. There were apologies from **Tony S** and David S, both masters of the pun, as they were both under the cosh. The positive from their absence was, of course, that we could concentrate on riding rather than laughing. We wish them both a speedy recovery and return to the fold.

I had a route in mind that was somewhat circuitous to start with and warned the group that they might imagine that they were going around in circles. We went via Mollington and had clocked up 7.2 miles at **Saughall** where the most direct route to the **Eureka** via **Lodge Lane** was just 2+ miles.

I had warned the group at the **Eureka** that **John F** had asked me to collect £1 from each rider as a contribution to “**Friends of Hadlow Road Station**” associated with the upcoming **Charles Allen Memorial Ride**. **Roy** left the Group shortly thereafter but I was assured his decision was not in any way connected to the £1 levy. (Only joking **Roy!**) In fact, he was not feeling up to scratch.

We proceeded onward to **Tattenhall** via **Christleton**, **Waverton**, **Saighton** and **Bruera**. It is worthy of note that **Glennys** managed to stay with the group through **Christleton** where she has been known on a couple of recent occasions to have missed our turning. Well done **Glennys!**

Alison's was pretty busy on our arrival but we managed to find a table for nine with an adjacent table for the other three. **Alan S** volunteered to find out if we should order at the counter or would someone come to the table. He returned after a few minutes to advise us that someone would come to the table but that he had placed his own order at the counter. It is not that we did not believe **Alan** but there was immediate activity as the group came to their feet and rushed off to place their order at the counter as well. Only **Alan O** was interested in waiting for table service but ultimately conceded defeat and placed his order at the counter. Although we were told that there was a 10-minute delay for food, drinks and food were served pretty quickly and we tucked in.

The 'Avocado Deligh', made up with a piece of home baked bread, mashed avocado, two poached eggs, smoked salmon and decorated with rocket leaves, was popular and chosen by no less than four of us. Quite scrumptious if you are into avocados.

Glennys had trouble operating the salt grinder but a member of staff was soon on the scene explaining and demonstrating that rotation was an important requisite for effective operation of this sort of device. Pretty basic stuff really.

You might notice that the next photograph shows a poster hanging behind our smaller table which was definitely askew and thereby hangs (or perhaps un-hangs) a tale. We had more or less finished eating when our peace was destroyed by a loud cacophony as the said poster was disturbed from its mounting and crashed to the floor.

Who was responsible for that was the question?



The “Perp”, (American cop drama slang for the perpetrator) was caught in perpetuity by our own Papparazzo “Finger on the Trigger, Alan O” as she rushed to re-hang the poster, albeit on the skew, before any staff could arrive on the scene. (That surely cannot be a bemused smile on the face of a nearby rider at this lady in distress, can it?).

A great venue with excellent food and service and I can't believe that I did not know about this little gem. Both Margaret and Alan S had been there before. Any more up your sleeve Glennys?



The return route was straight forward and other than Penyffordd Pete still having mudguard trouble was eventless. Riders peeled off at various locations to make their own way home

The regular trio of Peter W, Glennys and yours truly were the only remainers to stop at the Eureka for a cuppa.

Text by Brian L

Photos by Alan O