

## IMPROMPTU RIDE TO ROSSETT - 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010

Today's leader was Janet, taking an untested route from Andy at short notice. Here I am, worried about it.

Things did start well. The weather was much more like May. I basked not only in the sun but in compliments and free cake courtesy of a rider from Birkenhead North End who couldn't hang on to my pannier coming into the Eureka café.

Chris reported that he was joining a more challenging ride to Llangollen. John had a puncture to sort.

**Janet deep in thought**

Twelve of us pushed off a little after 10am, down Woodbank and onto the cycle path through to Hawarden Railway Bridge. We swung left down the river to cross at the blue bridge into Queensferry.



**This was to be a ride of many stops** – the first at the public toilets.



**Another stop at the square in Hawarden**

was only to catch breath and warn of what was coming - that sharp left and engage the right gear quickly. Instead, people were caught rummaging in bags trying to bring out bananas and flasks for an early break.



**It did give us time to admire that bike of Sylvia's.**

One or two were caught out by the steep kick up to Tinkers Dell and that rough surface.

Yes, this really is the right way! Then there is the gate at the top.  
Peter, what is the best way to get yourself and your bike through?



**Now it is time for elevenses**



**Peter showing how!**

After Lower Mountain Road, Andy had warned me of a right turn away from Golly and Burton – easily missed. By the time we got to that point, I had very nearly thrown the instructions and other toys out of the pram on to the A550 which we were looking at by mistake. Where are we on the map? We reversed, again! Others took charge and then the signs said Rossett – great relief!

This unintended route had its benefits – a long sweep downhill. George and Margaret took each other on. A large oncoming vehicle and a narrow road made for a scary moment. Margaret later admitted to losing her bottle and touched brakes – unlike George, of course. We were soon pushing the gate by the railway crossing and into Rossett. I did suggest going on to Bellis's Garden Centre at Holt.

**Graham preferred a drink in the pub with Margaret.**



He was the birthday boy today so we stayed in Rossett.

Space was at a premium for picnickers on the one seat.

**I was on the floor - checking the route - again!**





### George suspended in thin air

John had found Rossett and us quite independently. After lunch, I decided on the simplest option – straight into Chester via the straight mile and Eccleston to the footbridge crossing.



### Footbridge in Chester



The bandstand was in proper use today, entertaining us with a very lively Abba medley.



### Dancing on the Street in Chester



### The bandstand plays ABBA

The consensus on the route home was Racecourse and river. It gave our Rights Officer, Peter, a chance to show us the site of the proposed new foot and cycle crossing of the river, alongside the railway.

At Saltney ferry some of us split away in favour of Saughall and the Eureka cafe. There I spotted Joan and Roy who had ridden to the 50p shop today;



Roy and Joan back from the 50p shop

### Wallace and Gromit safely back from Llangollen;

We saw rather too much of today's newcomer, Dennis, (below) who said he'd enjoyed the 40 miles with us. Thanks everyone for your patience with my reading the route. Next time, you can follow Andy on the tandem which will be interesting down those hills.

### Janet Gregory

### Newcomer Dennis

