

Nags Head, Lavister - 9th January 2019 - and The Alyn, Rosset

Firstly we have a report from **Chris L** covering the group I led over a longer route and the two groups led by **Harry** and **Dave W** over the official route. That is followed by a report from **Brian L** regarding his group. Taking all groups into account I make it 42 people who took part in some way. **Chris S**

From Chris L ...

Wednesday 9th January, clear of Christmas decorations, Turkey and all the trimmings - time to get our own trimmings in order! Thirty-three of us assembled opposite the **Eureka** on a glorious sunny morning (with a further five taking a shorter route);



Harry asked for a show of hands for soup and butties (would have been easier to count those not partaking!); twenty-six replied yes! **Chris** had posted a longer route so off I went (eight of us) towards **Capenhurst** taking the longer route through **Wervin** to **Mickle Trafford** where we came across the tail end of **Harry's group** who'd used **Picton Lane**.



After extricating ourselves past them (they slowed down!) we rode into **Chester** to stop at the **Groves** - bananas and make use of the facilities he said! I'd just taken my first bite when I noticed the rest moving off, fortunately it was a walk over **Queen's Park footbridge** that allowed **Ian and I** to catch up! We then headed over towards **Kinnerton** again taking a slightly longer route through **Honkley** and **Burton Green** (checkout the road surface on **Stringers Lane** - they must've all paid their council tax on time!). This had allowed **Harry's group** to arrive at the pub before us. **George and Ada** were there sharing the soup and sandwiches with us - food was very good (chef is still **Anne's nephew** as last year), beer was excellent and service good too - I didn't notice too many other customers there so we must have brightened the landlords day! The five who'd taken the shorter route went on to the **Alyn** - I'm sure it was as good as ever!



The sun was still shining as we emerged, nice ride back via **Broughton** with a view over **Hawarden airport** and **Airbus**, a couple of "whoops, not that way" diversions before **Chris** dished out some very nice jellybabies just over the river before he turned up river for home, **Richard** turned downriver for **Chester** and the remaining four came back to **Eureka** for a cuppa! Thanks **Harry, Chris** for an enjoyable ride - 41 miles.

From Brian L...

"Alternates" Ride to the Nags Head / Alyn on 9 th Jan 2019

A quick group conflag which included **Peter W, Penyffordd Pete, Glennys, Margaret and I** decided that we would head for the **Nags Head in Lavister** but on a different route from the main group. As we would likely arrive after the main groups our **Plan B** (*Are you listening Theresa?*) was to move on to the **Alyn** if there was no room at the first Inn, so to speak. Late arrival was **David S** who enquired about the **Plan A** that is, immediately disappeared and was then unceremoniously left behind. We headed for **Chester** via the **Greenway, Clifton Drive** and **Ferry Lane**. **Peter W** had a few moments of nostalgia as we rode past the

house he had lived in for a few years in the early days of his marriage and before moving to **Willaston**. His parents also lived just a few doors away a useful arrangement, no doubt.

We headed to **Chester** along the **Dee pathway** and **Peter W** took over to lead us onto the cycleway leading to the **Roodee** and the **Groves**. The boardwalk section is closed for board renewal. As we entered the **Groves** we met **Harry** and his group and which included no less than **Dave S**. After a short banana stop during which **Dave** had decided to join us we headed for the **suspension bridge** and was soon into banter mode. He suggested that as we had been dubbed "**acolytes**" would it not be fun to cross the **Dee** by attempting to walk across on water rather than the bridge. Needless to say there were no takers. We headed for **Eccleston** and met **Tony S** who had been riding to meet us after a delayed departure.

And now we were that magnificent number seven and carried on to the **Nags Head**. The faster group had already arrived and we realised that **Harry's group** was imminent and we would likely be at the back of the queue as 'a la carters'. So **Plan B** was implemented. We met **Bob and Jill** who elected to join us and we were nine in total on arrival at the **Alyn**. It was not too busy and we sat at a rather large round table and the only thing missing said **Dave** was a sword.

After some good conversation, and some very good food and drink, we said goodbye to **Bob and Jill** and made our way back to the **Eureka** via **Burton**, **Kinnerton** and the **Dee Pathway**. **Tony** and **Penyffordd Pete** left us at **Green Lane** and **Margaret** at **Queensferry Bridge**.



Although not the longest ride we will undertake at 38 miles it was another enjoyable cycling experience.

Thank you Brian L - thoroughly enjoyable!