

Okells Garden Centre Café, Duddon - 18th March 2015

An excellent weather forecast produced a large turn out with twenty-five cyclists chomping at the handlebars. To get to **Okells Garden Centre**, we split into two groups. **Brian J** led thirteen at a slightly quicker pace, and **John F** guided the rest at a more leisurely trot. This system of two groups does provide safer cycling and riding at the same speed you do make contact with each other, but when we ride at different speeds I miss chatting to all my friends along the way.

Bob had made his own way along with **Mike Cross** who told me he is a bit unsure of his balance when riding in a group, but meeting up at the venues is still great. It was good to see **Alan O** also solo or is that solo also, still on his return to fitness. 'Jelly baby **Sue**' brought apologies for **Chris** as he is full of cold.

To get to **Okells**, **John** went down **Capenhurst Lane** to the **A41** for a short stretch - to **Backford** and **Wervin**, then it was through the three H-es **Hargrave**, **Huxley**, **Hoofield**, a much travelled road but so enjoyable in good weather.



Brian's group had arrived thirty minutes before **John's** giving us little time to swap stories - they obviously didn't stop to count the ducks at **Christleton Pond**. This is one of the nicest spots you can eat a banana especially on such a nice day.

So for all those I never got to bore about going to **London** to see the stage show of the **Commitments**, it was fantastic. It was to celebrate our **Golden Wedding Anniversary**. Trumping

that though was **Bob Williams** who last week celebrated his **Diamond Anniversary** - are we riding with an octogenarian? is 80 the new 70? Looking good **Bob**.



Brian's team left **Okells** as we were having our apple pie. I heard they all got home safely.



John took us back along the **Greenway** and on

to the marshes going through **Puddington** where upon the pace suddenly increased - I can only think it must have been the excitement and anticipation of the outcome of the **Budget**. I heard an interview with **George Osborne** who was asked "I hear you are putting the price of vests up, and reducing the cost of underpants why is that" he said *it's so you can all kiss my Ar.....*"

As you can tell by my scribblings I am struggling for copy - as us bloggers call it. Well - in a week that started on **Mother's Day**, then **St Patricks Day**, followed by **Budget Day**, we're all put in the **SHADE** by a spectacular **Eclipse** on the **Friday**. Thanks again to **Brian** and **John** for a very enjoyable day out. P.S. *What a pity the sun newspaper can't be eclipsed (no apologies to page three Neanderthals)*

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson