

It was chilly and windy as we gathered on the car park adjacent to Lytham St Annes Pier for this ride. It didn't quite fit the ride title of "I do like to be beside the seaside"! There were 23 of us including Violet and Joy, our two newest members, and Steph who joined us as a guest.

As we unloaded the bikes, Roy discovered that he had a flat tyre so he set about replacing the inner tube with a little help from friends. With a new inner tube in place and everyone ready for the off Jim T gave the group an overview of the ride pointing out a few potential hazards too be aware of. We set off down the promenade towards Blackpool but after a mile or so discovered that Roy's tyre had again deflated. After a delay, the main group continued down the promenade and we agreed to meet up with Roy and his helpers at Central Pier. The tide was in and waves were surging in as we cycled past the Pleasure Beach and on to the pier where we regrouped for the rest of the ride. We then made our way inland to Stanley Park and then on to quiet tracks and country roads. The route took us through Staining and Singleton before we reached our lunch stop at the Ship Inn, Elswick.

A few miles further and we changed direction to make our way back to Lytham St Annes. It soon became clear that we were again heading back into the wind and it became stronger the nearer we got to the coast. The last few miles were tough going as we battled the wind and light rain to reach our start point. We had covered 34 miles but it felt like more!