

Meadow Lea Café, Mickle Trafford - 20th December 2015

Margaret was the leader to Meadow Lea Coffee Shop, the last Sunday ride before Christmas. She had decided to have a fairly short ride and return to the Eureka for lunch having made special arrangements with Ann. Margaret had also arranged for a sunny and warm winter's day, so we had a good turnout.

Meadow Lea Coffee Shop



Here are all the 'athletes' at the bus stop ready for the off.

Someone who shall remain nameless fell over even before the ride started

- sort of 'jumped the gun'. I was then late to depart with the camera so I was not with the main group so there is not much to report about the Greenway part of the ride.



Margaret - at the front

Following the others along the same route along the Greenway I saw no pram pushers but plenty of dog walkers, and many loose dogs; surely it must be time for Chester to take some action to make dog walkers keep their dogs on leads as happens on the Wirral Way, before there is an accident to cyclists or dogs or both. We often use this old railway track and a good help it is. It used to link the salt mines of Cheshire with the coal fields of

Wrexham; it skirted round Chester unless it used the old Northgate station. Did it ever carry passengers - does anyone know the history?



On the ride back - did you happen to see a **Church clock** with only one hand? You pass it often at **Stoak**.

So one hour and twenty-two minutes later we see the riders arriving at **Meadow Lea Café**.



Stoak was once described as a '*collection of filthy hovels scattered round the church*' - that was at the start of the 19th Century but a lot has changed now, situated as it is only yards away from the **M53** and **M56**. The village is no longer ragged and filthy, but rather pretty. The Church was rebuilt in

1827, but has the stump of an old cross in the Churchyard and the one-fingered clock on the tower; one was sufficient in the less hurried days when it was built.

What a wonderful group of riders! After a welcome break it was back to the **Eureka** through **Guilden Sutton** and the **A5117**, a very enjoyable ride.

Our thanks to **Margaret**. Your scribe was unable to join in the festivities and fellowship that followed at the **Eureka**, but I take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Happy Christmas** and may the wind be always on your back in 2016 - and you continue to enjoy many good rides with **CTC Two Mills**.



David Collinson, text and photos