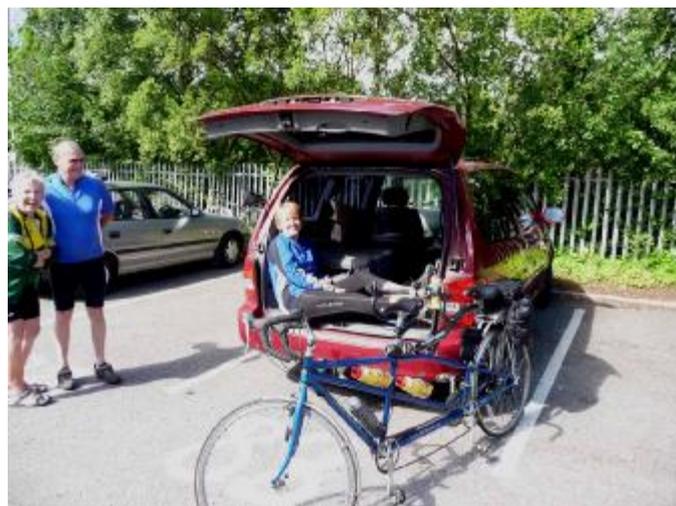


## FORMBY Ride (Car-assisted) - 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010



**Gathering at Formby Station**

A dozen of us met at Formby station for a 10.15.am start. It is worth noting that none of us arrived by train. It might have helped if we had because there are no signposts to the station, so we all got lost!



What the station does have however is a very large locked caged area for cycles, presumably for those who wish to park their bikes on the way to work etc.

It looked unused and was only accessible using a special key.

Anyway, after a relaxing wait in the sunshine for late arrivals, a briefing and a much needed 'risk assessment' for the ride from Brian, we set off into the unknown.

Moss Side and Plex Moss were crossed using tracks and footpaths before a 'stand up' 11's as we joined the Leeds & Liverpool canal towpath.

This took us past a stone memorial to the 'Navies' (Navigators) who dug out the canal, now only used for pleasure boating.





The tow path ride was made more difficult by the need to cross big pipes that were being used to pump much needed water from the canal to the heavily cultivated surrounding area.



Scarisbrick Marina (200 boats) & Burscough Moss were ridden by and so to Fettle's Wharf Marina (100 boats) for an excellent lunch at the popular café.



Two hard 'walking climbs' in the afternoon provided time to enjoy fantastically clear

views across the flat country to our west, even as far away as Blackpool Tower.



The afternoon's ride was marred by having to negotiate our way around a serious traffic accident between a lorry and a car, at a road junction which, by coincidence, is shown on the OS map as 'dangerous corner'. Things looked bad and the air ambulance helicopter was already on the scene.



This misfortune behind us, we ambled our way back though unfamiliar lanes to Formby station, where Brian de-briefed us. He is so good at that sort of thing!

Thanks Brian for an excellent day's ride, and, as you said,

"Same again next year?"

Yes please!

**Bob Witton**



### **End of the Ride at Formby**

### **PS**

" Following on from my comments about water being taken from the canal, I notice in today's Times 14th July, a report with photographs: Canal boaters left high and dry by drought. Britain's longest canal (Leeds & Liverpool) is having to close many sections because of very low water levels in the reservoirs.

I wonder if anyone checked before taking water out of the canal to water crops? Was it such a surprise that the levels have dropped.

The phrase "Joined up thinking" springs to mind."