

Picnic at Tile Farm, Guilden Sutton - 22nd August 2010

This is becoming something of a high spot in the Two Mills calendar – a fairly gentle, sociable ride with refreshments provided by our own volunteer caterers for a small charge. Once again, Keith headed-up arrangements but he's not precious about it. Anyone who would like to try their hand, please step this way. He was assisted by Debbie, of course, and, this year, Margaret and Graham threw themselves into the arrangements with their usual enthusiasm.



Andy and Peter



The day dawned warm, dry and bright – perfect for a picnic.

The numbers gathering at the Mills ready to take part exceeded my expectation. I think we had 28.



I was busy collecting cash and phoning Keith for more food please.

The whole group (almost)

We decided to split-up into two groups. The front one was led by **Peter**. Then a suitable gap before **Andy** followed-on. The two of them had checked the route earlier in the week which was a big help.



Graham and Margaret

Glennys did her bit as official photographer for the day, taking shots of the group and the new landmarks of Chester.

The plan was Woodbank and Dee River cycle path into Chester where we would take elevenses at the bandstand. The surprise was Margaret and Graham met us, setting out flasks of hot coffee, tea and biscuits in amongst the chairs on the river front.



Janet with one of Chester's Rhinos



Janet was testing out her **new Airnimal bike** ready for tours abroad. It folds down into a suitcase – really!

From the bandstand, we wiggled through town to join the Greenway in the direction of Mickle Trafford. Just a short stretch now to our lunch venue – Tile Farm – which until then was a secret for most people. Why here? Well, Graham knows the manager and had negotiated exclusive use of a field and a toilet – most important.



We found the catering team working quickly

to erect marquees and get the chairs, tables and food out for our arrival. Oops - we were a little ahead of schedule.

**Debbie, Margaret, Graham and Keith
(The Catering Team!)**





What a spread. Plenty for everyone especially us vegetarians.



Picnic at Tile Farm

Keith had a stove going in the back of his van for tea and coffee. Time to chill out in the sun and chat to one another. We had a good mix out today - long established members as well as Tuesday Evening Cyclists and Bicycle Belles. We don't have this kind of catering every Sunday but do think about riding with us.

The route back was via Mickle Trafford, Stoak, Dunkirk and Capenhurst. Andy's group were feeling fresh so continued on the A5117 cycle path to Lodge Lane and up Woodbank. Perhaps it was a mile or a long incline too far for some but Sundays are about that extra push. We reconvened in the Eureka cyclists' café for a final drink and chat – that's another part of the Sunday experience. Ann did a good trade especially because so many of our number were signing-up for the 81st Challenge Ride which is next Sunday from the café. Annabel soon had a growing number of people who wanted her to lead them on the shorter distance. Alan needs a partner for the long one.

Many thanks to everyone involved in making this a very successful day. And remember, if you have ideas for next year ...

Words by **Janet**, photos by **Glennys**



You can see a full selection of photos on the Photo Gallery page. Everyone should be included somewhere!