

# The Wheatsheaf, No Mans Heath 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016



With a forecast for a dry morning and a chance of some rain in the afternoon seventeen of us turned up for Brian and Sylvia's ride to The Wheatsheaf in No Mans Heath.

The pub got its strange name from four bordering settlements Malpas, Hampton, Bickley, and

Macefen - a bypass isolated it making it almost No Man's Land. The Sustrans cycle route 70 goes through it, and the Sandstone Trail is close by. Celia Fiennes (born 7th June 1662 - died 10th April 1741) who was a pioneering traveller on



horseback passed through here and there is a distinguished memorial waymarker to her. Her book "Through England on a side-saddle" is still in print.



We set off - not on side saddle - heading for the Greenway then Chester Racecourse stopping for a short break at the Dee

bandstand.

Brian suggested we have a coffee break at the refreshment hut alongside Beeston Castle but it was as we neared the castle that two things happened, first, a deflating tyre was pumped back up to get to the tea hut.

The other incident was a disputed shunt involving Steve and Tony. Steve reckons his chain came off because he was hit - Tony reckoned he shunted because Steve's chain had come off. The police were not involved but want witnesses to come forward!

Puncture repaired and chain back on we set off to the next



castle at Peckforton stopping to take a snap of the unusual sandstone statue of an elephant with a castle on its back in someone's garden.



Shortly after this I turned for home as I had to take my lovely granddaughter Sian to her dance lessons - the waitress at the tea hut looks remarkably like her (see pic).



Brian and Sylvia did a good job on their route finding and Brian had no trouble with his sat-nav. (see pic) - so thanks to you both for a great ride .

BRIAN'S SAT-NAV WAS SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE

" BEAR LEFT"



### Chris Byrne photos and text

*Three more turned up individually at the pub for lunch. Glennys arrived from Kelsall, Tony S came on his electric bike from Mold, and Mike C had ridden from Aldford. The food was good and very reasonable and included two scoops of ice cream for the same price. Staff were very pleasant and helpful. I think the pub will be added to future rides lists (ed).*