

Old Ma's Coffee Shop, Tattenhall

(not the Sportsmans Arms!) - 23rd September 2015

We are off today to **Tattenhall**, or to be precise - near **Tattenhall**, and that's because our usual watering hole the **Sportsmans Arms** by not selling food is not being very sporting. As it was my ride I had a word with **Brian L** and he suggested **Old Ma's Café** which turned out to be an excellent choice.

I was going to say that **Tattenhall** is mentioned in the **Domesday Book 1086** then spelt 'tatenale' meaning meadow, and some dwellings were designed by **Clough Ellis** famous for the Italianate village of **Port Meirion** in **North Wales** but I won't now.

Rides are usually evenly split before lunch and after, but this ride unlike the equinox (same day as the ride) it was very uneven. The route which was already a planned thirty miles, was now a few extra to the café. About fourteen riders set off on a fine day and riding along lanes - often travelled as far as **Kinnerton**, but from here it became more interesting as we were

going down less travelled lanes leading to **Rossett**. We passed an old mill here that was the subject of one of **Turner's** paintings, on through **Marford** to have a banana stop in **Holt**. **Wettrians**



Lane is ideal cycling terrain - hardly any cars leading to **Stretton Mill** and **Carden**.

Banana Stop Holt

It was at this point I allowed the ride to be hi-jacked, and we diverted through the **Carden Hall** grounds. When we exited, we were on a main road, and after a steep climb we were split up by traffic

lights. The second group including myself were completely lost. I had read it was Bruce Springsteen's birthday and one of his songs was in my head "I'll wait for you, should I fall behind, wait for me". When we sorted it out with **Jane's** GPS we rode along the **A41** for a few miles before the **Tattenhall** road.



Rule No 1 - always stick with your route! On arrival at **Old Ma's** we got lucky as a large group of cyclists were about to leave. Everyone enjoyed the food especially the cream scones.

Carden Park



Old Ma's Coffee Shop

The much shorter return route went via **Chester** to the **Greenway** coming off at **Saughall**. There had been a few lumpy bits and Its good to see **Brian S** coping so well on his recovery trail.

The '**Big Question**' is, is **Tattenhall** (the Sportsmans Arms?) off our list ?.

Chris Byrne

Photos John Ferguson