

Cotton Arms, Wrenbury - 11th October 2017



The Cotton Arms, Wrenbury

Chris L's group from Eureka

Last week we had two rides to **Wrenbury**. I went with **Chris L's** group of eight riders. It was good to welcome **Paul Mills** riding with us fresh from celebrating his victory as overall winner in the **Cycling UK Tourist Competition 2016**. **Chris** had chosen a beautiful route and the weather was kind to us. We stopped at **Beeston Castle** for a coffee and I thought we had all started together.



However after a mile or so **Paul** pointed out to me that we had lost

three riders. I retraced my steps to find them still near the Café having set off in the wrong direction.



We soon rejoined the group.

At the lunch stop we met **Ruth** and **Julian's** group of eight who had ridden from the **Ice Cream Farm**. They were just finishing their meal



and left soon afterwards, but not before **Brian Lowe** had told me he has now ordered an electric bike. I'm sure we will all be interested to how it performs and maybe welcome **Brian** back on some of the harder rides next year.

After a very tasty lunch **John** set off to photograph us riding over the canal bridge. We duly rode over and carried straight on expecting him to catch us. After three miles we came to our first turn and stopped to wait for him, but it soon became apparent he was not coming. Once more I set off back to look for him, but even though I rode back as far as the bridge he was nowhere to be seen. As I stopped at the bridge I got two messages on my phone - one from **Chris L** to say he was taking the main group onwards. The other from **John** to say he had not noticed which way we went from the bridge so assumed we had turned left and went that way. He was now too far on and would make his own way home. I resumed the route, on my own now. After another thirteen miles, as I crossed the **A534** I saw a cyclist on the left with his bike upside down. As I drew nearer I was surprised to see it was **John** - who was trying to deal with a trapped chain. This dealt with, we resumed our ride - **John** suggested that by going back through **Christleton** instead of **Saighton** we could save a few miles. I'm not sure about that, but I did notice on **Strava** that I had ridden 83.5 miles whereas **Liz**, who lives not far from me had only ridden 75.1. I must admit some of the extra was because I received a message from **Mike Knox** while I was riding to say that the **Burton Marsh** path was covered in deep mud so we diverted via the **Eureka**.

Chris S

Ruth and Julian's group from Ice Cream Farm

Eight of us set off from the **Ice Cream Farm** after coffee. The weather could only be described as dismal although it wasn't raining. We stopped for a photo call at **Bickley Moss** outside **St. Wenefride's Church**. At that precise moment **Fred** the groundsman, appeared carrying his tools having finished for the day who said

he had kept the churchyard tidy at **St Winefrede's** for thirty years.



Fred obligingly took a photo of our group but it isn't included in this account because our heads had disappeared out of the frame.

There's Fred in the background

I managed to crop another photo to include **Fred** by cutting off some of the others in the group. We vaguely remembered **Fred's** name later

when **Brian, Peter, Carl** and I rode together to **Pen y Fordd** last Wednesday but none of us could remember the name or location of the church or **Fred's** surname. Later, **Brian** delved into **Google** and discovered the name of the church and the village. My **Google** search resulted in sending an email to **Rev. Richard Diggle**, the Priest-in-Charge who emailed me to say that **Fred's** second name is **Taylor**. A bit of sleuthing between us! Someone said there is a plaque commemorating his long service.

We enjoyed lunch at the pub having arrived shortly before the others. **Mari, Liz** and I had a bit of fun trying on each other's prescription cycling glasses and discussing the ins and outs of their different features.



After lunch we had to wait while the canal bridge was lifted but soon after we crossed over **Brian** had a puncture just as the heaven's opened - bad luck.

Rain eventually ceased so the rest of the ride was uneventful - and concluded with yet more refreshments at the **ICF**.

Despite the weather we enjoyed the ride - many thanks to **Ruth and Julian's** excellent choice of route.



Glennys H

Photos by John F and Glennys