

Flora Tea Rooms, Henbury - 2nd September 2018

On Sunday 2nd September **Andy** led us to Henbury where eleven of us turned out at the **Leigh Arms** car park for a 10am start. We were surprised to see several camper vans parked up (presumably there is some arrangement with the landlord) - also there were some cyclists passing by. All seemed calm on the **River Weaver** but as any who've been that way, going east takes you up to the **Trent and Mersey canal** in less than 1/2 mile (and I do mean up!)

The ride was very pleasant after that and after encountering some cyclists doing a charity ride we stopped around the fifteen mile mark for a short break where we could see the sky scrapers of **central Manchester**.



At this point three of our number decided to head back, one lady had some pain in her

shoulder from a previous injury and **John W.** citing jetlag (having crossed the **Atlantic** two days earlier). We carried on, circumventing **Tatton Park** and close to the airport runway towards **Alderley Edge** before being tempted by some free cakes by the roadside (local guides contribution! - but we didn't).



We stopped just after this where **Andy** warned us of the impending hill "**The Wizard**", yikes! We all got up there at various speeds but it needs mentioning that no one dismounted to walk - well done all;

incidentally I'd ridden this hill on the **Bob Cliff 100** earlier this summer, having recorded both rises on **Strava** only to find this was quicker! After a reasonable break we were only three miles from **Henbury** and lunch!

There was a pub over the road but we all decided to use the **Flora Tea Rooms** - I had Welsh rarebit and tea, enough in the pot for three cups, definitely recommended - the service was fast too. It was getting pretty warm by now so topped up the water and with the promise of an ice



cream at **Redesmere** only a few miles down the road, off we went.



The lake was very nice & it was tempting to stay there with cooling ice creams & some drooling over a very smart **MGB** but I was eventually persuaded to mount up and move on. The route took us very close to **Jodrell Bank Observatory** - although hidden by trees I'm sure they could spy on us! The telescope points straight

up to space so I don't imagine a few cyclists will have been of any interest.

After this we turned down a private road near **Over Peover** (yes). This track is a public Bridleway and involved us riding over a cobbled section (presumably this had been a packhorse route in times gone by) which eventually gave out to tarmac again.

Andy had said on his preamble that we'd be making a left turn at the tree - sounded quite vague at the time, trees not being that unusual on this route but on the approach to **Lower Peover** (there's also a **Peover Heath** but we didn't go there!) we came across '**The Tree of Imagination**', well worth a visit - see photo. Passing a few more meres on the way we were soon through **Great Budworth** (without incident) and back at **Acton Bridge** for a swift pint before home.



I had asked a few people if they wanted a lift there to no avail but I ended up giving **Andy** a ride home as he had come with **John** who'd gone back earlier.

Thanks for the ride **Andy**, a lovely 55 miles.

Text and Photos by Chris L