

ANDERTON BOAT LIFT - September 25th 2011

This week the 'Road Ahead Closed' and 'Diversion' signs greeted us on the A56 in Helsby: the reason being the burning down of The Robin Hood pub the previous day.

However, eight of us managed to meet at **The Costa Coffee Bar in Frodsham** for a 10.30am start with **Peter** our leader. He brought his son **Robert** along for the ride. (Ooo, he does look like his Dad!)



Regrettably, **Roy**, who was due to lead the early starters from the **Eureka**, was unable to do so due to illness. (I'm pleased to report he's nearly recovered). A short report on their ride and the Garmin route is included.



So, off we went confidently with a good weather forecast. But such is life, within fifteen minutes we were donning our waterproofs in a heavy downpour: fortunately, the only one of the day. We soon crossed the **River Weaver** and climbed up to take a right turn towards **Aston and St. Peter's Church**.



Here, **Peter**, who used to live in the area, gave a culture lecture and persuaded us to search in the churchyard for the grave of a certain **Miss Chloe**, who's rather tragic life he had spoken of.

This took a full team effort and considerable time but eventually, with **Andy's** prior knowledge of the site, we were successful.



Success!



On the canal towpath



Scraping the mud out!

After a bit of 'off road' we gained the canal towpath where those with close fitting mudguards, poked about their machines with sticks. On then to Acton Bridge where we left the canal, and rode through the lanes to Anderton where we met the A team:



four riders who had chosen a route through Delamere and Hatchmere, apparently only briefly losing one member in the Forest and enjoying the sight of a vintage tractor parade on their way.

The café, canal and the boat lift were all very busy. What an incredible structure that is.

During the afternoon, Peter offered us a choice of "flat main road or hilly lanes back to Frodsham?" "Your choice Peter" we said.

So, we climbed up to the highest point in the area, **Newton radio mast**, and enjoyed the wonderful views!



Anderton Boat Lift

We were soon plunging downhill back to the **Costa Coffee Bar** in **Frodsham** after an interesting day's ride.



Thank you Peter

Bob Witton

Click to see the A team route <http://goo.gl/fikoQ>.