

ROY'S RIDE to OLD MA'S COFFEE SHOP 24th OCTOBER 2010

It was a very cold start to the day.

The second frost of the week, but the roads were rideable so we managed to stay upright.



A Frosty start!

Yes, autumn is definitely with us: plenty of evidence of that.

The farmers, who last week, forced us into the hedges with their huge tractors and trailers, are now busily ploughing and sowing winter wheat. A cash crop?



Autumn tints

Twenty-four of us set off from The Eureka right on time, Roy very sensibly led the first group of 10 or 12, Andy and Jill headed the second team off, a few minutes later.

This is what tractors should be doing!

Route 5 took us to a leisurely 11ses at the end of the Greenway,



End of the Greenway for 11ses

As Old Ma's proved to be overflowing, a group of us volunteered to retrace our tracks to the Ice Cream Farm, which was surprisingly quiet.

then via quiet lanes to **Old Ma's Coffee Shop**.



Re-grouping back at the coffee shop, we made our way home via the picturesque banks of the Dee

and **Shropshire Union Canal**, stopping only to watch a **pleasure barge** cruise past the recently **renovated water tower**:



Banks of the Dee



it's really a water filtering and purification reservoir for drinking water from the Dee, built in 1937. Water has been taken from the Dee since 1826, "Because it was so pure!"

Recently renovated Water Tower

The Shot Tower and lead works, a few 100 yards further down the canal, date back to 1681 and provided shot for the Napoleonic Wars. The lead coming from mines in nearby North Wales. It is possibly the tallest surviving structure of its type in the world. It is now due for redevelopment into 33 one or two bedroom apartments, plus office and a commercial area.



Boughton Shot tower and lead works

I didn't see much of you during the day Roy (backmarker again) but I am sure you led your usual excellent ride.

Many thanks.

Bob.