

Leigh Arms, Acton Bridge - 29th May 2019

From Chris L...

I counted around twenty at the **Eureka** this week. Some of us were taking different routes to the venue - however **Dave W** took a head count for all involved in the chips and sandwich deal at £6 before we separated. **Chris S** had drawn up a longer route than **Dave's** as this he deemed it too short - **Dave** had planned a coffee stop but this was shelved as the Pub asked that we be there between 12 and 12.30pm (chef issues). **Chris** had also shortened his in order to ensure arrival on time. The weather forecast had promised rainy periods during the day but at this stage we were still dry!



Ten of us set out with **Chris** towards **Capenhurst**; I had agreed to sit as back marker trusting in my newly serviced **Garmin**; this told me to make a U-turn whilst **Ian's** newly acquired one was beeping constantly - 'off course!'; (he thought today would be a good opportunity to understand how it worked!). **Chris** then confirmed that he had entered a reverse route - so



we just had to follow the blue line. There were two **Ians** on this ride and on the **A5117 Ian** (no. 2) had to pull out as the bearing on his back wheel was getting very noisy; he had a long conversation about this with **Chris** - no-one else was aware of this so we all stopped in turn to ask what the problem was. I think he had abbreviated the explanation by this stage!

On we went through **Stoak** to **Bridge Trafford** before a short water stop where I was allowed to eat my banana! On to **Oscroft** and **Willington**; straight on here up **Roughlow** (unusual name?) and even higher (500ft) - we were all puffing a bit up here and we needed a rest. some coats came off as the promised rain never materialised. There now followed a long descent to **Cotebrook** where some of us (me) regretted discarding the coat as we crossed the **A49** I(nasty). We passed Oulton Park towards **Whitegate** and an interesting trip through **Vale Royal Golf Club** (rough surface) wondering how **Tony** had got ahead of us (he'd always been at the back!) before weaving our way through the tangle of traffic lights at **Hartford** to **Weaverham** arriving at **Acton Bridge** about 12.40.



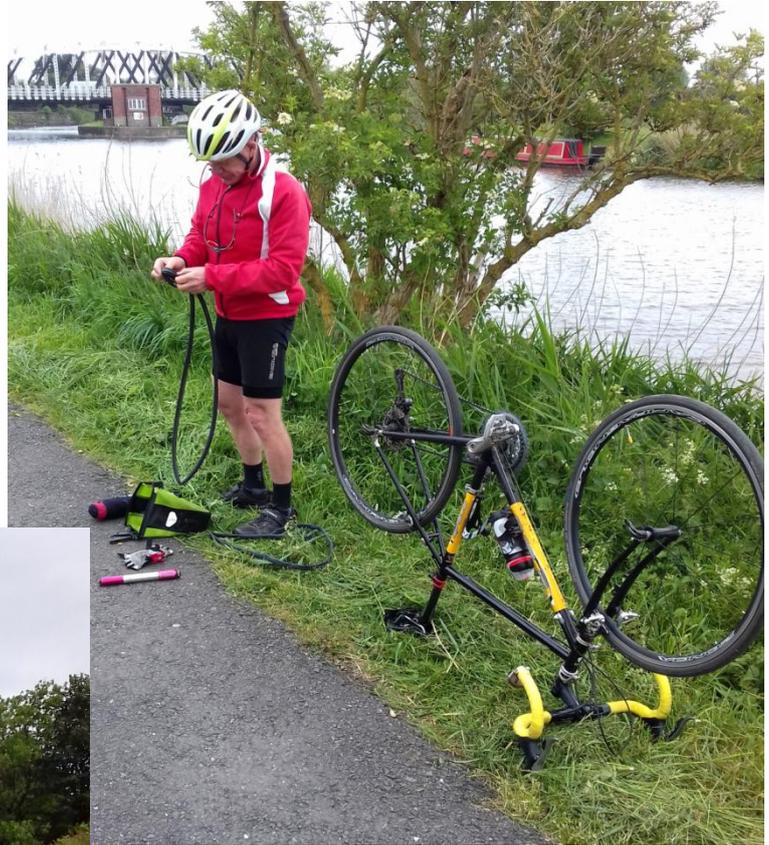
Everyone else was there, **Peter** had led a short ride from **Frodsham**, **Dave's gang** were there too along with **Tonys Sm** and **Sw**. There were still plenty of butties and chips left for me (my chain had come off twice so I spent some time washing my hands - what a mess!). The food could only be described as average - it won't get in our 'top 10' - however the beer (**Dizzy Blonde**) was good.



Last to arrive and last to leave... we hadn't gone 200yds along the river before Ian shouted that dreaded word "Puncture" - no one else was within shouting distance so I stopped and eventually contacted Chris who was waiting at **Pickerings Lock** - the first tube wouldn't inflate - hole! - the second one worked but

just as we were removing the pump (lezyne screw-on type) the valve came out with the flex. After putting this back and carefully removing the pump all seemed to be well so off we went to attempt to catch up. The others had started to move by then as it was getting cold and the rain was threatening, so on to **Kingsley** before a steep climb followed by a long descent to **Alvanley** and eventually the back of **Helsby**.

Just before crossing the motorway **Ian's tyre** had gone down so a quick reflate seemed to work, we caught up with the others at **Elton** before a repeat at **Ince** - once we hit **Oil Sites Road Ian** decided this wasn't going to work and said not to wait as he would get the train from **Ellesmere Port**.



There were seven of us now and **Paul** knew of a short cut missing out **Cheshire Oaks** where we caught up with the others on the **A5117**. **Tony** pulled off for home and Chris went straight down to the Marsh Path leaving four of us to get back to two Mills.

Thanks **Dave**, **Chris** and all the other leaders, back markers etc. I made it 56 miles, **Two Mills** and back with over 2,100 ft climbing. I'm not here next week (**Scorchio Skiathos** awaits) and I'm leading the following week....!

From Peter W...

My little band of five did nearly nineteen miles riding part of my **father's Police beat** in the 1950s at **Sutton Weaver** and **Aston**.

We followed **NCN Route 5** out of **Frodsham** to **Sutton Weaver** when eagle-eyed **Tony** spotted the **Danny** (the **Daniel Adamson**) tied up by the **Swing Bridge** at **Sutton Weaver**. This steam ship was built by **Cammell Lairds** in **1903** and has been restored recently to its former glory. Log on to '**The Danny**' on the Internet for all information and future cruises. We stopped here and were invited on board and shown around (photo below).

We then cycled up to **Sutton Weaver** and **Aston** and stopped at **St Peter's Church** where I gave a brief history of the church which included the burial of a **negress** who died at **Aston Hall** on the 12th September 1837 age 77. She had been a servant to the **Aston family** from 1767 for 70 years. The roof of the church was being repaired after thieves had recently stolen the lead.

We left **Aston** across fields to **Dutton Locks** on the **Weaver** and then on a private tarmac road to the **Leigh Arms, Acton Bridge** where we met two other groups.

Return was back to **Dutton Locks** crossing over the Locks to cycle down the river, under the **railway arches bridge** to country lanes through **Kingsley** to **Overton Hill** and back to **Castle Park Frodsham** for a cuppa at the **Arts Centre café**.

Peter W

The Daniel Adamson



Text and photo by Peter W

Many thanks to Peter for leading the Ride