

Farmers Arms, Frankby - 21st January

A very surprising seventeen riders turned up in very poor conditions - it was wet with a Scotch mist and there were still patches of ice in places. We had all come to follow **John F** to the **Farmers Arms** in Frankby.

I don't think any of us would have ventured out on our own so it is to the credit of our club to bring us all together. It is true that once you get going and chatting to someone you don't notice the weather so much, unless you suffer with white finger like I do.



Farmers Arms

John took us through **Ledsham** and on to the 'missing link' where we encountered our first patches of ice; **Brimstige** and **Raby Mere** came next where we stopped to watch the ducks doing a poor impression of **Swan Lake** on the frozen mere - but they gave us a good laugh.

Arrowe Park I think is a first on our rides; this is where we all dismounted because crossing the car park was like a skating rink. In 1929 the park held the **3rd World Scout Jambore**; 30,000 scouts and 320,000 visitors attended - the atmosphere must have been "inTENTse."!

John was told that the 'just finished' conservatory would be reserved for us in the pub, but on arrival it was only half built. We weren't bothered as there were two great open fires inside. **Noel** and **Hazel** were already thawing out. **Bob** and **Jill** had managed to get themselves lost walking through the woods, the antediluvian pictures of bike lamps no use to navigation - should have brought a sextant Bob!

The pub is in a nice area, so much so that the **French** settled there - hence the name from **Franks** which they followed with the suffix from the **Vikings**, that's the BY bit. **Sir Ernest Royden** liked the place so much that in 1928-1931 he moved his house brick by brick (or is that timber by timber) from **Bidston Hill**. The house contains a 16th century **Jacobean** fireplace that belonged to **Walter Raleigh**.

Royden was an **English** ship owner - his daughter **Dr Maud Royden** was a writer, preacher, suffragette 1876-1956 and is buried in the church of **St John the Divine**.



Today we welcomed two new members **David and Jill** I didn't get speak to them but hope to soon. I think **Jill** will be looking at rear mudguards looking at her jacket.

Chris and **Sue** live close by and **Chris** told me about some memorable nights in the **Farmers** and **Sue** said there were nights that he can't remember.

You would find it a bit expensive @ £3:35 a pint but most said the grub was O.K.

We set off the way we came in only this time it was uphill. **Jane** remarked she felt unfit after an enjoyable break in **Spain** where the electric bikes have become very popular.

John led us to **Lower Heswall**, **Neston**, and **Puddington** so well done **John** you managed to take our mind off the weather with an interesting jolly around the **Wirral**.

Chris Byrne