

Farmers Arms, Frankby - 13th January 2016

Depending where you live this morning could have seen you scraping ice off your windscreen - if you had a car of course, but thankfully at ten o'clock the roads were fit for purpose. **John F** was our guide to the **Farmers Arms in Frankby**.

Its name is derived from **Frankis** meaning **Frenchman's farm**, the 'by' at the end from a **Viking** settlement. The pub is situated next to **Royden Park** named after **Sir Ernest Royden**, a wealthy ship owner who spent some of his dosh on bringing **Bidston Court**, a mock Tudor mansion to the area over



two years. It also has a miniature railway. His daughter **Dr. Maud Royden** became a suffragette; this info is on the grounds you missed, by some inexcusable reason, last year's blog.



peloton. **Brian L** was at the cafe but due to a delivery to his home, decided on his own course.

After Burton and **Sylvia** being reunited with her shades, we headed to **Willaston**. Just

before **Hooton Station** we went left, going to **Raby Mere** - always a nice spot to stand and stare.



It looked like we were heading back to **Willaston** until John turned right towards **Thornton Hough** and on to **Brimstage**. It was here that **Chris L** got a slow puncture, and despite putting some air in, it kept going down, so being near home he called It a day.

From **Brimstage** it's a long stretch with a slight gradient up to **Barnston**, and then a right turn towards **Arrowe Park**.



Arrowe Park

This section on last year's ride was really bad as the freezing conditions overnight turned the car park into a skating rink. The last section took us up to the **Irby Mill pub** and then it was all downhill to the **Farmers Arms**. **Noel** and **Hazel** were there to greet us and we exchanged best wishes for the New Year.

Along with some others I took about twenty-five minutes eating my sandwiches and when we went into the pub it took at least another twenty minutes before anyone received their food. So **no Michelin stars** there. Again the school run called and I had to get going. The day had remained bright although a bit on the cool side, so thanks **John** for an enjoyable ride. If anything worth a mention happened on the way back I will put it in next week's blog.

Chris Byrne

Photos John Ferguson and the Internet