

# The Stanley Arms, Anderton - 25th September 2019

This week's ride was to **The Stanley Arms** by the **Anderton Boat Lift** ably led by **Paul M**; there were only thirteen gathered at **Eureka** - apparently there was some competition from the **Wirral Cycling Group** (WCG) going to **Walk Mill** with **Andy B** (softer route maybe?) and none of the **e-bike crowd** were with us! Once **Paul** had made himself heard above the traffic extolling the virtues of the £5 meal deal we set off roughly in two groups - **Chris S** bringing any stragglers to bear.



There was not much in the way of incidents, three more joined us at **Stoak** although I did hear that a certain bike was making a strange rattle which was dismissed as a loose mudguard until



it was pointed out that the said item was barely attached; fixing this however only set off another rattle - this was then diagnosed as a broken bottle cage (you'll have to buy a new one **John!**).



From there we stopped briefly at **Mickle Trafford** then on through **Morley Bridge**, **Helsby** to **Frodsham** on a remarkably quiet **A56**. Taking on a back road around here we cycled back on to the **A56** for a short way but turned off for **Aston** and **Dutton** crossing the **A49** at **Whitley** then on to **Cumberbatch** and **Anderton**.

We arrived just in time to see a boat load of tourists coming out of the lift but were disappointed not to see them go straight down again. In my enthusiasm for a couple of photo opportunities I left my cycling specs on a picnic table not realising until I was over the canal by the pub; fortunately **Mike M** spotted them handing them to reception - thanks **Mike!**

The pub had reserved much of the beer garden for us and since it wasn't a cold day the food was served there, and with a complete bowl of chips each; sandwiches all on white bread but nice enough - beer again excellent.



Paul thought it best to crack on as the forecast for the afternoon was looking a bit iffy, so after a nice run to Little Leigh and Pickering's Lock (dodging under the busy A49) some of us discarding a layer or two, we set off up to Kingsley and even higher to Newton - the elevation on the return run proving much tougher than the outward leg! Paul set off from there taking us off piste and as most riders had not rounded the previous corner the rest of us waited until a quorum was reached before following the Garmin route and meeting up at the next junction. It was nearly all downhill from there even going down Cob Hall Lane (a first for me), back to Mickle Trafford from where riders began to peel off as we headed up the Greenway. Helen's chain



came off there but Peter sorted that. There were only three of us back at Two Mills - great ride Paul. - 58.8 miles and 2000 ft.

**Text and photos by Chris L**

### 'The E-bike Crowd'

We weren't much of a crowd today (on 25th September), only two of us to start with. Brian L and I decided to go on our e-bikes to Caffi Florence at Loggerheads, starting at Net's. I had been given permission from Net to use the car park at the café. This was a great boon as it meant I could leave the bike carrier on the car instead of the cumbersome and heavy job of lifting it into the boot,

Our route took us to Connah's Quay, Oakenholt, Northop, Gwernaffield and Cadole to Caffi Florence. The route out was nearly 30 miles. The return route via ...was cut short as I was concerned about the amount of power left in the battery. As it happened I needn't have worried. We returned to Net's with plenty of fuel still in the tank and could have done the original route that Brian had planned.

We were joined on the way by Tony S (another e-bike) but I can't remember exactly where as some of the lanes were new to me. Many thanks to Brian for leading the way.

47miles and 2,700 ft climb

**Text by Glennys**