

## The Bunbury Arms, Stoak - 6th December 2017

When I saw **Dave's route** for last week's ride I was a little concerned about how muddy the "missing link" would be but didn't give a second thought to the **Burton Marsh Greenway (BMG)**. However on Tuesday **Janet** posted on **Facebook** that it was "*literally up to your armpits in sheep poo*". Now I suspected there may be a little exaggeration in this description, but nevertheless I was very pleased that **Dave W** managed to come up with an alternative route that used neither the **missing link** or the **BMG** at very short notice.

There was another good turnout with some twenty-four people in the main group and **Brian** took a small separate group on a shorter route. **Dave** elected to travel as one group but asked us to keep in small groups with a gap on the busier roads.



The final section before lunch was strewn with hedge cuttings but we arrived at the pub without mishap other than **Brian's** mudguard falling off in **Parkgate**. A good lunch was served reasonably quickly, and we left the pub in good spirits after the very noisy presentation of a birthday card (thanks **Chris**).

Unfortunately both **Liz** and **Pauline** found they had flat tyres. A few of us stayed to help while the main group set off south. The punctures fixed we followed - from **Picton Lane** we turned into **Ash Hays Lane** and I wondered why we seldom go that way. Maybe the very deep mud we encountered there is the reason? Soon after this, in **Backford**, we caught up with the main group who had stopped for another puncture and to clear mud from mudguards. The remainder of the ride was uneventful as people started peeling off to head for home.

Thanks to **Dave** for coming up with an interesting route at such short notice. I did cross the **Greenway** a few days later and it was still very deep in poo, although not armpit level!

**Chris Smith**