

'A' ride to Cotton Arms, Wrenbury and 'B' ride to Bridge 80 Café, Overwater Marina 5th September 2018

'A' Ride Cotton Arms

Eighteen turned out for a 9am start at the Eureka on Wednesday - John Ferguson had volunteered to lead from Brian L's route (who unfortunately was unable to join us). The ride was to Wrenbury via Woodbank, Greenway, Saughton with a coffee stop at Tattenhall Marina. We split into two groups of nine - John leading the first group (Grupo Fn) and John W the second (Grupo W).

We had an impromptu banana stop at Saughton whilst Grupo W caught up, followed by a pleasant coffee at the Marina



(excellent views of **Beeston Castle**) - the ride went by **Carden** where **John** decided to wait for the second group but five of us went on through **Duckington** (crossed the **A41** for the third time!), someone "put the hammer down" - **Ken/Paul/Richard**, take your pick - but after a trip down the **A41** (again) at No Mans Heath we eased in to **Wrenbury** having achieved an average 14.5 mph! A lie-down was in order - do they have rooms?



The landlady asked if we wanted the chips yet (butties all ready) but we thought we'd best play fair and wait! I went to take some more photos only to find the bridge had gone up for a narrow boat - opportunity here - this gave time for **Grupo W** to arrive with the remnants of **Grupo F** too! The food was served, very nice too although unlikely to hit our top butty and chips award. At this point **Grupo DW** arrived on their way back from **Café on the Bridge 80** which had good reports! (Grupo ? 38 miles).

The route back was flatter with another promised stop at **Bunbury**, however, before that we had a slight adjustment to the route briefly taking the wrong track out of **Brindley** before carrying on to **Haughton** with **Garmins** telling us to 'make a U turn' ! (ignored this as you do). **Paul** punctured after this with three keen to get involved and one to look on and shout instructions - I think **Harry** won this one. Only six of us went into the **Nags Head** at **Bunbury** (nice coffee but no cake this time!) whilst the others either went straight on or stopped at the **Co-op** for an ice cream!

The remainder of the ride was uneventful apart from the biggest tractor traffic jam I've ever witnessed - with various riders dropping off near their homes - only myself and **Bruce** went to the **Tudor Rose** car park.

Great ride **John**, with an excellent route **Brian**. Seventy-four miles in all. Thank you all for reading this far too!

Text and photos Chris L

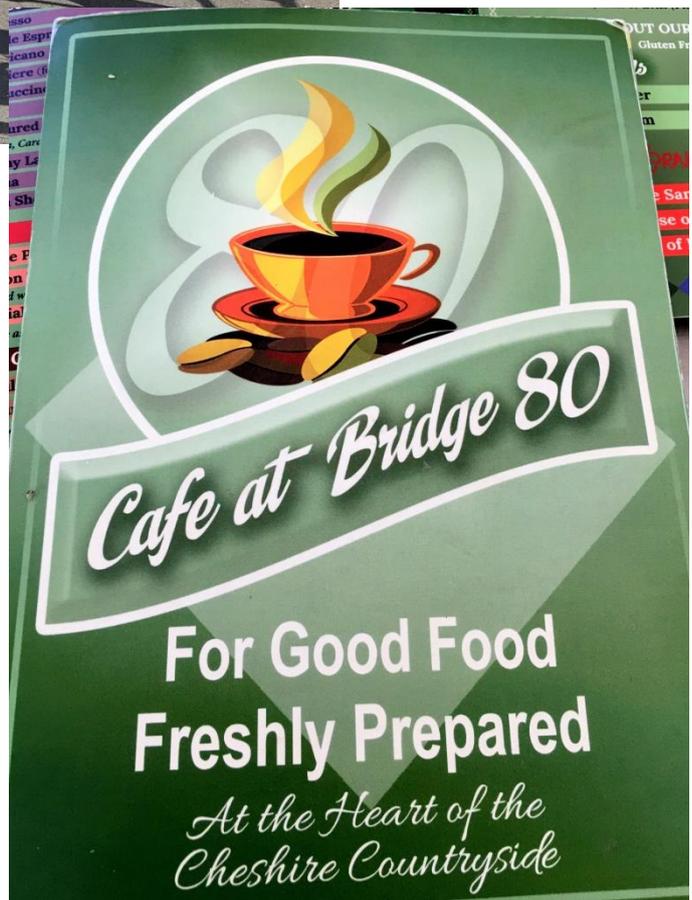
If you have more of a visual mind you may find [this video](#) enlightening - or not. (Chris S)

'B' ride Overwater Marina



Eleven easy riders met at the **Ice Cream Farm** for a run to a new destination discovered during a recce for the planned **Wrenbury Cotton Arms B Ride**.

The **Café at Bridge 80** is at the **Overwater Marina** on the **Shropshire Union Canal**, just north of **Audlem**. The morning ride was shortish in good weather and with a following light breeze saw us there in good time. The **Marina** is a short distance off the road and the whole establishment is neat, tidy and clean, and proud of its "**5 Anchors**" status - think 5-Star Hotel, but for boats.





Platters of sandwiches, a big bowl of fresh salad and bowls of crisps (healthy option - chips are not cooked at the café) awaited us. The £6 a head cost included a hot drink to choice. Good value we thought. The food was fresh and tasty. The home made cakes looked delicious but we didn't

sample them as the sandwiches had done their job.

The café could seat at least thirty people, and there was plenty of seating outside, with pleasant views over the **Marina** and **canal**. No sign of **Bridge 80**, though.



On our way back, we called in at **The Cotton Arms** to meet the **A Riders**, albeit briefly, as they were ready to go soon after we arrived.

Our route home took us around the **Peckforton Hills**, down to **Tilston**, up through Carden Park and on to the **ICF**, so missing

any serious hills, as befits 'easy riders'. Total distance was forty-six miles, with about 1560 feet of climbing. Many thanks to **Dave W** for planning the route

*The **Café at Bridge 80** would make a good destination for next year. An A Ride from the **Eureka** would come in at about 75 miles, with not too much climbing (c.1800 feet total) while a car-assist B Ride could go from **Christleton, Waverton**, or the **ICF**. Details are on the [cafes and pubs list](#)*

Click [here](#) to relive the ride.

Text by Dave W

Photos by Chris L, Sue F and Glennys

'relive' from Dave W



Overwater Marina, Audlem