

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, a few of us set off from Wigan North Western, on an impromptu outing, to suss out the route for the proposed Brief Encounters ride.

Following a short train journey up to Lancaster, we exited the station directly onto a city cycle track. This took us inland along the banks of the river Lune, and under the impressive Lancaster canal viaduct to our crossing point at Halton. From here it was a series of Jim's legendary, gentle climbs, as we made our way along a reasonably quiet road heading towards Nether Kellet. Jim's turn for a puncture, gave us chance for a breather, although we didn't really need one for some reason. Unless it was the fact that Denis didn't know the way, and had been kept in check.

Back on the bikes and on through Nether Kellet as we made our way to Carnforth station for Elevenes and a photo opportunity under the famous station clock. Cakes and coffee consumed we joined the Lancaster canal, passing some rather impressive canal bank properties on our way to Hest Bank. Here we picked up Marine Drive with its spectacular views of the bay and beyond. A blustery sea breeze escorted us along the front into Morecambe, where yet another photo opportunity arose with the statue of Eric. (No not our Eric of canal dipping notoriety). Photos taken, it was a short journey along a superb cycle path towards Lancaster, before crossing the magnificent Millennium Bridge back into the heart of the City.

A nice lunch and a beverage or two, were taken at The Green Ayre, before we headed back to the station, and our eventful journey home. Jim was called upon to play the Good Samaritan, going to the aid of a somewhat distressed individual, on the station platform. This before the fun began on our arrival back in Wigan, the train was standing room only, and getting the bikes off was going to prove difficult. The doors opened and with a bit of maneuvering, we got off and headed for the station exit. Something was wrong though only two of us had made it. A quick phone call later, we found out the others were still on the train, heading for Manchester. Talk about getting your moneys worth. We didn't laugh (much)

A great ride though; why not join us the next time we do it?

The train enthusiasts, made it back to Wigan an hour or so later. None the worse for their ordeal you'll be glad to hear. Serves them right for taking the last couple of seats, in hindsight though they were welcome to them.