

# Easy rider

*Niamh Ollerton visits Southport Electric Bikes*

There are few things more leisurely than a bike ride; with the wind through your hair, scenic views and a companion or two by your side. However for some riders, long distances and an uphill slog may seem quite challenging, but it doesn't need to be that way. And that's where Southport Electric Bikes comes in.

My colleague Peter and I arrived at the quaint shop just off King's Street in Southport and I was pleasantly surprised with the wide selection of bikes Glenn had available.

Owner Glenn doesn't mess about when it comes to electric bikes as he explained if the bikes don't have a branded battery or two years' guarantee then he won't take them onboard. Basically, he's looking at the product from a consumer's perspective;

ensuring customers always purchase top quality electric bikes.

The whole point of an electric bike is to allow riders of any age, ability and fitness to enjoy cycling even when the route isn't as flat as a pancake. Glenn told me that over time, his fitness improved and he got stronger thanks to his electric bike. So there's an added health benefit too.

Firstly, we needed to pick two cycles to test, from the generous selection. Peter and I selected different bikes to cater to riders of different ages, and after Glenn had explained how the motor worked – pedaling automatically kicks the motor in, but once you use the brakes or stop pedaling the motor cuts out – we were off on our "ambitious" 35-mile route through West Lancashire.



and picturesque as we cycled through the fields, and so there was minimal exertion needed on both our parts. That was until we got to the Saracens Head adjacent to the founding site of the Leeds-Liverpool canal.

Glenn said I'd be fine with the motor on the lowest setting, but when it came to bridges over canals on our route, I was very happy to have the extra assistance when I kicked the setting up to maximum.

From Halsall we made our way to Ormskirk, which included a very easy uphill ride, before making a pit stop in the market town. It was market day, so

We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny day as we set off towards Southport promenade – making sure we were happy and comfortable with the bikes. And let me tell you, if you're worried about getting around a roundabout on a bike, put your motor on a higher number and you'll whizz around no problem.

Peter and I cycled along the coastal route towards and through Birkdale village, where we admired the quaint shops and cafes, then made our way towards Halsall. This part of the route proved to be quite flat

it was a little too hectic to ride our bikes, but pushing the bikes is not a difficult feat either; The bikes have a walk assist function so wheeling them along is really very easy & doesn't require much effort at all.

After leaving Ormskirk we coasted down the hill and on towards Burscough. You can't help but feel like a carefree child when you soar downhill can you?

As we were on the flat once more you're able to do a little more cycling without fear of the electric assistance/battery running dry. Making our way





towards Burscough Wharf we needed the electric assist up high again as we cycled over the canal bridge and made our way into the Wharf courtyard before continuing our adventure on the canal.

I was amazed at how comfortable my bike was even on the canal towpath. It felt no different than a regular bike, but if you listened very carefully you can hear the low buzz of the motor kicking in when the path was quiet.

With canal boats galore (including a barge café) as we cycled towards Burscough Farm for a spot of lunch, this was one of the most peaceful sections



of the ride as we were completely surrounded by countryside.

Our final part of the cycle took us towards Churchtown (where you could make a trip to the Botanical Gardens on a sunny day). Although the landscape was flat, this needed a little more pedaling on my part, boosting the electric assistance. That is, if like us, you need to put some pedal to the metal because you're conscious of not exceeding your parking allowance in Southport car park.

Peter and I thoroughly enjoyed our ride, and Peter also commented on how much electric bikes have improved in recent years in terms of build quality and battery range (mileage). And the good thing about electric bikes is they're simple and easy to use.

Glenn and the team at Southport Electric Bikes are not only on hand to cater to your needs when it comes to selecting a bike, but are there to ensure you have years of reliable and enjoyable use of it.

Call today to book your **FREE Test Ride**

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