

## Eureka to the Eaton Estate - 28th August 2016



As you can see even before the ride starts there is some very serious business to discuss, and lots of tea to drink before the riders are refreshed and ready for the strenuous exercise to follow led by our leader **Andy**.



Then it is across the road to the bus stop ready to start. So eleven (12 with **Peter Williams** who had started in advance) set off on this rather special ride to **Eaton Hall** when we are allowed to enter the Estate on this one of only four days in the Year when it is open to the public, for charity.

The weather was kind to us and the day better than we may have expected.

We went off down **Woodbank** and on to the Greenway at **Blacon** which was not too busy to start with and making good progress allowed time for an enjoyable stop at **Meadow Lea Farm Café**.

Service was quite quick which was good so all were ready for a departure in good time, what a happy group, the camera man got



stick for keeping folk waiting because he couldn't find his gloves - which were on his hands! As a result we missed the traffic lights for the rather long road works.

We entered the **Grosvenor Estate at Aldford** and were stopped by security who verified our credentials. Our leader kindly agreed to a stop by the lovely **Blue Bridge** over the **River Dee** for another group photo.



We cycled through the **Estate** passing many deer on the way, more than I can remember seeing last Year.



Having paid our £7.00 entrance charge everyone was free to explore the gardens as they wished which were up to their wonderful standard and a joy to behold. Some of us also entered the **Chapel** and were able to listen to the marvellous organ music which was being played live, an unexpected bonus.



**Views of the Eaton Estate Gardens**



Others may have been to see the **narrow gauge steam railway** and the **Parrot House**. The railway was originally built to carry all the building materials from the main railway for the building of the **Hall**, but now just gives pleasure rides around the grounds.

**Narrow gauge steam railway**



**Parrot House (no parrots)**

The route back to **Eureka** via **Eccleston** and the **Chester race course** was altered to avoid the wind along the **Dee** path, so we went by the **canal basin and path** to join the **Greenway** and on home through **Saughall**. A very enjoyable ride and day out.

Our thanks to by **Andy** - our very positive leader, but most of all it was the company that made the ride so special.

**David Collinson - text**

**Photos by David Collinson and Glennys Hammond**