

Chester Grosvenor Park - 14th August 2016



We had been promised a fine sunny day but we had a cloudy rather cool but dry day instead. Nine riders assembled - quality not quantity owing to holidays and **CTC Birthday Rides** - for this eagerly awaited long distance ride. A quick check ensured that all were up to the task so off we went, not from the bus stop but in the direction of **Liverpool** that wonderful City across the water with two football teams, then across the **Two Mills** traffic lights and first left to Puddington, and on to **Burton**. Just west of

Burton we stopped for a short history lesson on the **Hampstons Well**, first used by Iron Age settler's at **Burton Point**, then by **Anglo Saxons** and the villagers of **Burton**. Every able-bodied man was expected to help keep the well clean, or face a fine of sixpence. There can be no able bodied men left as the site was a mess - which is also disrespectful of the local Councillor in whose honour and memory the site was cleared. Shame on you **Ellesmere Port** and **Neston Council**.



On we went down to the **Dee Marsh cycle path**, always a delight to use and so to **Hawarden Bridge** into **Wales**, then passing through **Queensferry** using the cycle paths under the fast A494 and the other paths before turning left at **Chemistry road** and through the quiet **Sandycroft Estate**.

I think we were only passed by one car for the whole distance, until we re-joined the B5129 passing our



important local employer **Airbus** and left on the same road until we came to **Higher Ferry**.



Always an interesting and ancient crossing of this fast flowing river.



Having regrouped we took the **River Dee** path on to **Chester** entering by way of the **Chester Race Course**, and so to the **Chester Groves** where we refreshed

ourselves after the long ride at the **Riverside Takeaway** who provided all we required very promptly and efficiently - while we were entertained by a Frenchman(?) playing the accordion - all very pleasant. After we walked our bikes up to and through the Grosvenor Park, our destination



This lovely park was given to the people of **Chester** by the **Grosvenor family** and at one time must have formed part of their estate. You can see this by looking at some of the old maps. The café, which had been very busy on my first visit was almost empty and this in the middle of August on a fine day, so perhaps it might be a possible call in future.

We then moved on by **Dee Lane**, the **canal** and **Greenway** to **Liverpool Road** and away from **Chester** past the **Countess of Chester Hospital**. This is a route I have used many times on the **Liverpool/Chester** ride, but this time I made a mistake, riders didn't like it owing to the heavy traffic - sorry - I will not lead this way again. However, some compensation was the home-made **Ice Cream Café** just before you come to the **A5117** where the sun at last came to join us as we enjoyed our refreshments.

The route returned us to the **Eureka** via the **A 5117 cycle path** and **Capenhurst**, a "C" ride of about thirty miles at nearly 11 mph.



Photos and text by David Collinson