

Bodnant gardens - 4th August 2019



This is the view of our start and finishing point in the car park at **Prestatyn** car park - the coastal track can be seen here at 09.30am in the morning. There were just four of us **Helen and Glenn G, Janet G,** and myself (**David C**). Quality not quantity maybe, but having said that there were a lot of other things on the go - the **Birthday Rides** and some people going off to **France**, and of course holidays.

So off we went along the traffic-free route to **Rhyl** and over the new **Harbour lifting bridge**. It was dullish but some sunshine with the north easterly wind mainly behind us - but the path got busier as we came to all the mobile homes, which is what you might expect on an **August Sunday**.

We had a coffee and cake stop at a café on the front at **Rhos-on-Sea**.



Poor **Rhos** had been badly affected by all the recent rains and the high street had been ripped up - it will be months before they are able to open the street again. As we sat and had our coffee, we checked the news to make sure the dam at **Whaley Bridge** was still intact, thinking about the people there who were in danger of losing their homes.



After **Rhos** we turned inland and rode along the old road to the roundabout, to join the road up to **Bodnant**. This was a very busy road with a procession of cars passing us so we were glad when we came to the turning off the main road to **Bodnant Gardens**.

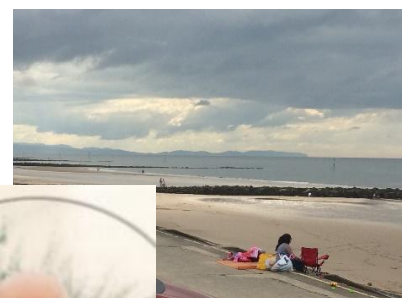
I will just place the pictures of the garden in the order of our conducted tour kindly given by **Helen**



We had a few spots of rain and took shelter, and those who thought to bring sandwiches found a good place to eat them, the **café by the Mill** had some very tempting pasties, but we left them be.

After our grand tour we enjoyed another coffee at the main café, and then started our return back over the hills. My map gives three climbs of 1 in 7 to 1 in 5 (14% to 20%) but the reward was worth the effort with wonderful views and a swift decent to **Llanddulas** to join the **coastal path** which was packed with families and children who were not looking where they were going, and the music from the fairground would split your ears and might be heard in the **Isle of Man!**

Then back to **Rhyl Marina** for coffee/tea and a slice of cake and return to **Prestatyn** - 43.7 wonderful miles at 11.3 average, with thanks to **Helen** and **Glenn** for all their research and planning, perhaps we might do something similar again in future.



Text and photos by David C