

The Alyn, Rossett - 27th November 2016



Fifteen stout-hearted riders gathered for this ride in favourable conditions, dry, cloudy, and about 6°C. Our leader, **Chris S** was anxious to proceed so there was no time for group photos at the start or during this ride. We proceeded down to and across the **Dee Marsh**, over the **Hawarden Bridge** through **Shotton**, over the **A494 (Ewloe Hill)** and on to **Hawarden** which was once the residence of **Gladstone** at **Hawarden Castle** - which remains closed to the public. On leaving **Hawarden** we took a small road on the left that climbed steeply to **Bilberry Woods** and then by the lanes to **Rossett**.

Some of us like hills, most don't, but the result of the effort is mostly rewarded by beautiful views and a more interesting ride overall - and then there is the joy of going downhill, and so it proved to be on this leg of the journey to **The Alyn at Rossett**, one of the best community pubs in the area.

The return was straight forward through **Dodleston** over the **Higher Ferry Bridge** along the **Dee path**, and for once, not into the wind, to the **Blue Dragon Bridge** where the ride divided into two, those going back over the **Dee Marsh** and those going back to **Eureka**. We arrived at the **Eureka** at 15.00hrs for warmth, refreshment, and friendship, which the others missed!

While cycling along we often pass interesting local history. Do many of us know that **Dodleston** was the birthplace of **Sir Thomas Egerton** 1540-1617? He was one of the most important characters during the latter years of **Queen Elizabeth 1** reign and could have been buried at either **Westminster Abbey**, or **Saint Pauls**, but instead he chose **St. Marys Church** in **Dodleston**. **Dodleston** is also the birth place of **Mallory of Everest** fame.

Many thanks to **Chris S** for a very enjoyable ride.

David Collinson