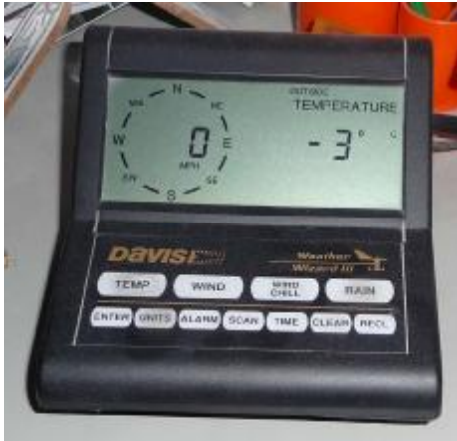


CHESTER CULTURE RIDE -16th December 2012

It had been very cold during the week, but by Sunday it had warmed up considerably, and **Graham** led a party of 24, some resplendent on suitably decorated machines, for yet another of his culture days out.



A festive ride in slightly warmer weather



His early choice of a very **muddy and wet cycleway**, caused a few raised eyebrows and **blocked mudguards**,



but all was well by the time we reached
The Groves for 11ses.



The Groves



Soldiers from the English Civil Wars. On the left a musketeer, on the right a pikeman.



The commanders of Royalist and Parliamentary forces at Chester. On the left Lord John Byron, Royalist, on the right Sir William Brereton, Parliamentarian.

Graham's story-telling

The **Culture Tour** continued - mainly based on the **Civil Wars** - with a visit to **Rowton Heath**, where **Graham** told us of the battle fought there after the **15-month siege of Chester in 1645**.



It was here that **Charles 1** saw his last substantial body of cavalry defeated and ended his hopes of unity with **Montrose's forces in Scotland**. The **Royalist cause** was doomed!



The Plough Inn, Christleton, provided a warm welcome and a good lunch.

The Plough Inn, Christleton

On the ride home we saw many more waterlogged and flooded fields. With more heavy rain forecast this week, the farmers are in for a tough time.



Waterlogged fields



More waterlogged fields



**Yet more...
waterlogged fields**

An excellent and informative ride – thank you **Graham**.

Bob Witton