

# ERBISTOCK - 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012

The coming of the second ice age had been forecast by the tabloid press, but the 15<sup>th</sup>, though frosty and cold, was bright and sunny. Eleven riders, led by **Brian**, left the **Eureka** at 9.30am, whilst 5 of us decided to 'car assist' and met at **Dee Cliffs Farndon**.



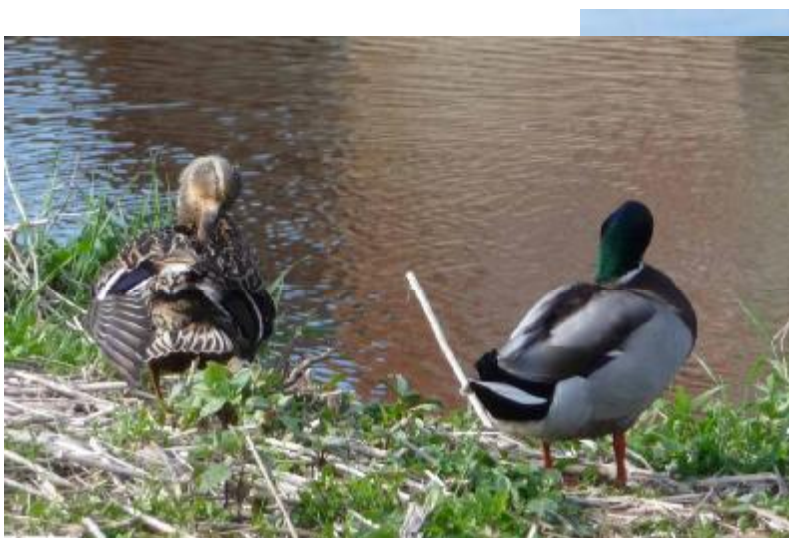
This proved to be an interesting choice: a fine **old bridge**, much documented **history** to read,



**a canoe launching point**



**and the remains of a long closed café.**  
**(not to mention the ducks!)**





So, after watching two canoeists load up and depart in the direction of Chester



- we decided to have early 11ses at **Hildegard's café** in nearby Holt.



I believe the 'A team' also rested there for tea and buns on their way home much later in the day. Our ride to **Overton Bridge** and **Erbistock** followed much of the Early Season Tourist Trial route, along which we were rewarded with many beautiful views across the Welsh landscape.



By co-incidence, we all arrived together at the **Boat Inn** - a really glorious setting by the river. Dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup>C, the Inn was once the site of a hand-operated chain ferry across the river.



The landlord said that “We are no longer a restaurant - only a pub.” Well, we were soon shown to an almost baronial like room and tucking into “only pub sandwiches”, which were excellent.



**Lunch at the Boat Inn**



**‘Outside eaters’**



The ‘outside eaters’ soon made friends with other visitors, indeed **Barbara** became so attached to a large **black dog** that she found it difficult to leave when ‘on your bikes’ time came.

Our ride back to **Farndon** was via **The Plassey** and **Cross Lanes** to complete an enjoyable day.

**Bob Witton**

Click <http://goo.gl/7rbBs> to see the ‘A’ Group route.