

# The Charles Allen Ride & 35th Anniversary 7th March 2018

Preface from John F...

"The venue is the **Eastham Lodge Golf Club**. We have exclusive use of a the first floor function room. This room has large windows with great views over the Mersey. The Golf Club has an extensive selection of buffet menus, but as we can't give them the number attending until the day we have gone for their simplest option which is Sandwich and Chips at £5 per head. C&NW committee have given **£50** towards our celebration. We are donating **£30** to the Friends of Hadlow Road the other **£20** is for a **Birthday Cake** that has been designed by **Glennys**. Come and join us on this social occasion whether by bike or car. Out 20 miles Back 21 miles".



From Chris S

"The riders will be calling at **Hadlow Road Station** at around 10:15am where there is a memorial bench to **Charles Allen**". At last a good day after the freezing weather and snow. **John** decided to split the group into two, and so I took a group of eight and **John** the same. **Peter** and **Margaret** went on a more leisurely route and others met us at **Hadlow Road**.



**Mike** presented the **Friends of Hadlow Road** with a cheque for £30. The **station** had started looking a little run down since the **Rangers Office** closed, but the friends have made an excellent job of renovating

**Mike** spoke to us about the history of the group while we posed for photographs and



it again. As someone with a former professional interest in telephone kiosks, I had to admire their work on (IMO) **Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's** finest design - the **K6 kiosk** - (or perhaps you prefer **Liverpool Cathedral**?)

I know **John** faced a challenge designing an interesting route given he had to go via **Hadlow Road** and **Eastham**, but not surprisingly he overcame this and we passed along many of **Wirral's finest lanes**.



Some don't like **Storeton Lane** but I love the gentle descent (where we hit 28mph).

A gentleman on a mountain bike caught up with us when we stopped at the end and asked if we had been having a race - my favourite kind when no one else knows it is a race! I wasn't so impressed later with the uphill finish though, since it meant that **Brian J** was easily able to glide past me to finish first! We were made very welcome at the **Golf Club** and they made a point of saying we were very welcome to use their facilities whenever we were passing. The function room was excellent for our meeting and there was a good turnout of people who had made their own way.

The formalities were quickly completed and after admiring the design of the cake we quickly ate it.



**In the Golf Club**



The only element that was less than perfect was that the food did not match the standard we have become used to in other places for £5 a head.

Thanks to all those that had a part in the arrangements - **John, Mike, Glennys and Eva** and probably others I don't know about!

Then on towards **Oil Sites Road**, I started with eight again, but somehow lost Karl who I later found had decided to join Peter and Margaret. **Bruce** raced off up **Rivacre Road**, not hearing our shouts. We watched him riding along the other side of the **M53** with apparently no idea we were not following.



**35th Anniversary Cake**

I was getting concerned that I had lost two now, and was down to six when **John** caught us at the **Boat Museum**, his group being now down to just three. The two groups merged and we went over to **Wimbolds Trafford**. At **Mickle Trafford** I headed along the **Greenway**, and so bade farewell to the rest of the group who, after some discussion, decided to go to the **Eureka** through **Stoak** with John.

**Chris Smith**

**Photos John Ferguson**