

The Buck, Bangor-on-Dee - 11th June 2014

A good weather report produced another good turnout. Mike K led ten riders and Brian L the other ten over a slightly shorter route to The Buck pub in Bangor-on-Dee. The Welsh name for is Bangor-is-y-Coed - it means 'battlement with a wattle fence'; sounds like it wouldn't keep sheep out. It certainly never kept Ethelfrith (the Pagan) out in about 609 A.D. The scholar Bede wrote he was set to attack Chester when he heard that a thousand monks in the local monastery were praying for a victory for the Cestrians, so he slaughtered 907, but some escaped. A thousand years later Walter Scott wrote a famous poem "The monks of Bangor' march" it was put to music by Ludwig van Beethoven. Isn't life today a bike ride! Oh... by the way, they cancelled the day's racing.

Our route took us along the Dee to the bridge and into Saltney, through Kinnerton, and Marford, with its very distinctive buildings. They were built by the French Huguenots after fleeing from persecution at home. It was near here that we had a comfort stop; some of us thought we were seeing things when a cow was seen overhead. It turned out it had got stuck in a muddy field and the farmer with a sling on his tractor was lifting it out (see pic); udder than this incident everything was fine!



Brian L's group went via Holt. On the return trip Jane left the pub early but was soon caught at a feeding station in Bretton. Her attempt to get back early for the World Cup had failed.

I have been to Bangor-on-Dee on a few occasions but Mike took us down some great lanes not travelled before. It had taken us 2 hours 20 minutes as we crossed the five-arched bridge by The Buck. This bridge, built in 1660, is believed to be by Inigo Jones.

Already having their lunch was Tony S who got there on his Honda - and Mike Cross, George and Ada. The two groups both arriving within ten minutes of each other gave the staff more time to serve us.

Brian's group had a comfort stop in Holt where Roy paid 20p for the privilege but craftily sneaked five others through the turnstiles. Brian L made the joke about 5 peas for 20p but it's too cheesy to use here (cheesy peas). Ridley Wood and Bowling Bank came next, then Bangor. Mike C had a very good ride, a car assist from the Kingsway Community Cafe. Not sure where George and Ada started from. Also good to see Bob Williams again although doubling up with

Brian at the front he got told off by Ruth for holding up the traffic. (As we were leaving the pub a young couple walking by were arguing whose fault it was they had missed their bus, but they kept passing the Buck!!)



Homeward bound!

Serious stuff this!



And if you haven't spotted the two familiar faces in the latest edition of Cycle check out the inside of the back page.

Well done Mike and Brian for another great day's ride.

Chris Byrne