

## Waterways Garden Centre, Borras - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Today's ride is to **Borras** near **Wrexham**, and coming to our rescue as a leader is **Colin** once again. With perfect conditions we had a good turn-out.

Not wishing to provoke the wrath of **Anne** in the **Eureka**, I waited at the bus stop opposite. Our members were enjoying their tea/coffee al fresco. I heard loud applause, the reason for this was our local hero **Steve Cummings** had arrived. Winner of the **Tour of Britain** and a brilliant stage win in the **ToF**.

**Borras** has an interesting history, a **Neolithic axe head** was found and a hoard of Bronze Age metalwork. During the period 1917-1920 some fields here were used by **The Royal Flying Corps** for training people from **RAF Sealand** and **Hooton Park**. The airfield was closed after **WW2**. Between 1962-1992 a **nuclear bunker** was built - a four-minute warning would have been given to the people of **Wrexham**.



**Colin** led us through **Puddington** and on to the **marshes**. It was my first outing since enjoying fifteen days in **Italy** with **Brian Saxby** and **Mike Knox** plus wives. **Brian** and **Jean** invited us to join them in **Italy** to celebrate their **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**.

We went by coach down to the heel of **Italy**. All of us would recommend it except for one day's travel being very long.

Back to the bike ride...



We followed the **River Dee** to **Chester**.

The river was like glass, not a ripple - **Cadbury's** make a ripple don't they?

I heard they are going to open a factory in **China**, It could be '**Chinese Whispers**'!!

After a stop by the band stand, **Alan O** had to leave us as he had an appointment with a **physio**, I also has to be home early and decided to ride only as far as **Holt** and **Farndon**, **Mike Maxwell** said he would stop there also. We went through **Saighton** and turned right for **Farndon** where we left the group at 12 30. **Mike** and I used the **Deli**, not **Cleopatra's** and sat in the square for lunch in brilliant sunshine.



On our return towards **Chester** we spotted **Mike Cross** riding toward **Holt**, and later as we were going onto the canal we stopped to talk to **Reg**. He explained that he has moved to Buckley where his daughter lives so she can easily care for her mum. **Reg** is 82 and can no longer lift his leg over his bike but that hasn't stopped him, he went and bought a bike without a crossbar.

He looks well I am glad to report.

We finished on the **Greenway** and through **Saughall** where I left **Mike**. After fifty miles I had just enough energy to limp down **Woodbank**. So thanks **Colin** for the first stage of the ride, I hope everything went well on the rest of the ride.

The following day - 15<sup>th</sup> - **Mike and Dianne Knox** share a Birthday also a **Wedding Anniversary**. We are joining them with **Brian and Jean Saxby** for a meal to celebrate the occasion.

### **Over to John...**

We arrived at **Borras** to find out that the café was closed for redecoration so we rode on to **Bellis's**. As you can see from the photos **Mike** met us at Borras then rode up to have lunch with us. **Mike** was the only person to have a map and this was consulted to decide on an alternative route (**Garmins** are good but you can't beat the **OS!**)



We stopped for an afternoon break at the **Tattenhall Marina** - this is a very welcoming venue and it charges very reasonable prices.

A great ride through the **Cheshire** lanes in wonderful September sun.

**Text by Chris Byrne**

**Photos by John Ferguson**



**At the Marina**





**Puddington  
and the marshes**



**Chester**



**Some extra photos**



**The Bridge at Farndon**