

Calverley Arms, Handley - 20th August 2014

Despite a weather forecast of showers till midday sixteen riders were tempted out to be led by **Graham** to the **Calverley Arms** in **Handley**. The numbers were increased by the early return of some birthday rides riders. The start was delayed for ten minutes when **Sue** arrived with her front tyre flat, following her two punctures last week - is she making a bid to overtake **Mike K** in the 'Flat's League'? There were plenty of willing helpers as **Sue** is the jelly babe supplier.



We set off down **Woodbank** and headed for **Saughall**. This took us on to **Eccleston** which means 'meeting place'; the church here is **St. Mary's** and is over the site of a pagan church. It was built by the **Duke of Westminster** for £40,000 in 1889. A dig in 1929 revealed 20 bodies that dated from 390AD - the earliest known burials in **Cheshire**.

You can hardly avoid going through places with amazing history on our doorstep, for instance in **Mickle Trafford**, our next call, it was here when it was marshland that a raised area was home to a hermit called **Plegmund** who went on to become the **Archbishop of Westminster**. This area is now called **Plemstall** which means **Plegmund's** holy place.

A short stretch of the **Greenway** brought us to the canal where we came off at **Telford's Warehouse**. We were now going towards **Farndon**, crossing the Dee to dear old **Blighty** and on to one of my favourite lanes, **Wetreins**. In fact, all the lanes now are good, and going through

Carden Park is a buzz. It was in these grounds that evidence of **Celtic** occupation was found from 6800BC- 4300BC also bronze age pottery from 2200-1800BC. The golf course was designed by **Jack Nicklaus**.



Close to the pub in **Handley** is the church of **All Saints**. Inside is a ring of six bells from 1512, 1615, 1682, 1709, and two in 1906. This is starting to sound like I am obsessed with churches - I swear to God I am not - please pray for my obsession to go!

The weather forecasters had got it wrong again. After lunch it was still light rain so we decided to take the shortest route home through Tattenhall and Waverton and on to Stoak and the cycle path to **Capenhurst** lane. Over the last few miles the rain finally relented but it never came near to spoiling a very enjoyable ride - so thanks again **Graham**.

Today's route suited
Les Descendres.
Just for you **Brian**.



John has sent a pic of Steve (the horse whisperer) with his Tazer in his belt but it's only used if the horse is deaf!

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson

← **Photo of John's tazer (horse-whisperer)**