

The Railway Inn, Meols - 28th October 2015

The weather forecast was for rain till mid-day but fortunately it was wrong as two groups of twelve set off in mild dry conditions for the **Railway Inn in Meols**. It was once a **Viking** settlement and its name comes from a **Nordic word 'Meir'** meaning sand dunes, becoming **Meols** from the time of the **Domesday** survey.

I discovered an amazing story; in 1938 when they were building the **Railway Inn** to replace the old one they came across a **Viking longboat** under six feet of clay. To excavate it would have slowed the new Inn being built so it was left underground (now the car-park).



A Professor In **Nottingham University** is trying to raise funds to have it excavated.

This area has major claims for musical talent - **Andy McClusky** of the 1980s band **O.M.D.**, **Miles Kane**, former member of **The Rascals** and **Arctic Monkeys**, **Cliff Williams** bassist with **A.C.D.C.** and **John Duffy** from **Coral**. **Mike Rutherford** of **Genesis** went to a boarding school on **Meols Drive**, **John Lennon's** ex wife **Cynthia** moved here in 1968, and their son **Julian** spent his early years here. Other connections are: the T.V. sit. com. **Watching**, starring **Liza Tarbuck** was filmed here, **Glenda Jackson**, **Daniel Craig**, and the writer of "*Two pence to cross the Mersey*" **Helen Forrester** are all from here.

John F was to lead this first of the 'MYOW' rides, following a route we did two years ago. We went down some of **Wirral's** most colourful lanes, the trees looking spectacular, going through **Willaston**, **Thornton Hough**, **Brimstage**, **Storeton** and **Bidston**. It was just before the now **Bidston Park** that **Brian S** got a thorn in his front tyre. **Charlie** volunteered to stay with him and they diverted to the pub. What they did not get to see was one of the calmest high tides I have ever seen from the sea wall. The **Welsh hills** were peaking through a sea mist giving the scene a wonderful, peaceful, calm, atmosphere. I could imagine how **Wordsworth** must have felt when he stood on **Westminster Bridge** in the early morning writing his poem saying - "*even the very houses seem asleep*" - something like that. I'm more a **Rabbie** fan myself.

In the pub we met up with **Bob** and **Jill** and our other Octogenarian **Bob W.**, also **Alan O** who had made his own way via a coffee in **Next**.



After lunch we continued along the front to **West Kirby**. **Julian** spotted an **Egret** and said they are becoming more common since the time when **Edith Piaf** on a visit here penned "No No Egrets" (a little bird (sparrow) told me that). It's a veritable magnet for musicians this place.

Egret (one of several species)

Glennys, who made a welcome return to the **Wednesday fold** chose to return down the **Wirral Way** and others also headed off their own way. After **West Kirby** we went to **Caldy** and up **Irby hill** then **Neston**. **John** stopped to admire the ornate gates in **Lower Heswall**; he explained that they once were in place on a local railway station, someone said they heard a pop star lived there, **Mari** came up with the pun of the day saying maybe it's **Gareth GATES**. **Alan O** went along the marshes, as we thanked **John** for a very memorable ride.

As the trees have given us so much pleasure this autumn I thought you might like to share this poem by **Joyce Kilmer**.

Trees

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast
A tree that looks at life all day
And lifts her leafy arms to sway
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain
Who intimately lives with rain
Poems are made by fools like me
But only nature/God can make a tree."*

Take your pick on the last line; if you would like to hear **Paul Robeson** sing it, it's on **YouTube**.



Autumn Trees

Chris Byrne