

Old Quay, Parkgate - 19th December 2018

From Chris L...

"Wednesday's ride this week was our traditional trip to **Parkgate** on the final ride before **Christmas**; the **Old Quay** didn't let us down either! **Chris S** led us on a route similar to last year's going via **Chester** on a twenty-four mile circuit.

The **Eureka** was busy as ever (*acoustics designed by Heinz*), but the coffee was very welcoming. After we'd all gathered over the road at the bus stop (ideas for a new name?) there were about twenty of us in two groups headed off down **Woodbank** to the **Greenway** and in to **Chester** via the **canal basin**. The sun was out by now and pedestrians were mere shadows looming up beside or in front of us (*'scuse me, sorry, oops!*) before the first group stopped at the **Groves** - bananas at the ready! There followed a short discussion on the relative merits of **Brexit** before it was suggested another subject (*any other*) would be more appropriate!

Chris then led us over the **Victoria Bridge** - No Cyclists - they said; so we pushed! There now followed a ride across the **Meadows** after overcoming a couple of obstacles designed to discourage cycling; they obviously hadn't taken into consideration our resilience - these proved only a minor problem for us so on we went under the **Dee and Grosvenor Bridges** to **Saltney**. We even stopped after the **Ferry Bridge** (*funny how everyone expected Jelly Babies*) - too early and **Sue** hadn't brought any!

We passed through **Deeside** with my first ride over the new one way system and cycle paths - nice! On to the **Marsh Path** and in to **Parkgate** for the **Old Quay**. It may have been noticed by one or two people who saw me attempting to secure my bike to one of the tables where I did a less than elegant slow motion slide under said table before quickly recovering my composure!

There were quite a few cyclists in the pub having made their own way by both car and bike - **Mike C, Andy B. Ruth, Julian and more**; **Bruce** leading the second group came in soon after and **John F**, with a small group, a bit later due to punctures holding them up. (*Another small group of five - see photo - had ridden independently, led by Brian L ed.*) The food was exceptionally reasonable (*don't know how they do it*), staff were friendly although I understand the vegetarian option left a lot to be desired!".

Most people were going their separate ways afterwards, lots of shouts of "**Merry**

Christmas" were exchanged and see you in the New Year etc. i.e. next week... thanks Chris for a great ride, the weather held up for us too."

From Chris S, Thanks to **Chris L** for that, and for not mentioning the flight of steps entering **Curzon Park**!

From Glennys...

Brian L and I met up at **Net's** to ride to the **Old Quay**. As we left the café after a welcome drink and toast **Karl** joined us and at the start of the **Greenway**, **Tony S** and '**Pennyffordd**' **Pete** made the group up to five. Our route followed **Sealand**, **Saughall** and **Mollington** followed then **Lea by Backford**, **Dunkirk Capenhurst** and **Ledsham**. We crossed the **A540** to **Burton**, past **Ness Botanic Garden** to **Ness**, **Neston** and a good lunch at the pub.

After lunch we had a very short ride to for **Karl and I** to collect our cars. **Tony S** and **Peter** had already left us. **Brian** rode home on his bike to get a few extra miles in as we had only done twenty-four miles.

Thank you **Brian** for sorting out the route for us. A very enjoyable ride.



The Old Quay, Parkgate

Brian L took the photo!

