

## 'Of bridges, not too far' - January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

Selecting my Lycra for the day, and removing from it a Remembrance Day Poppy, I was reminded that we had not ridden since November 14<sup>th</sup> 2010. Unsuitable weather and a family Christmas, kept us off the saddles for the longest period for at least 12 years.



**The Eureka**

However, The Eureka was again open and very busy. Barbara was unable to lead the ride to Delamere, and although John was willing to take us, it was unanimously agreed that, as most of us were unfit, a shorter, less hilly ride would suffice. So we went for lunch at the Duke of Westminster's place.

It was down to the Dee and the 1<sup>st</sup> bridge of the day.

Queensferry Bridge, built in 1926 to replace the old one. It is a Bascule type bridge and the two centre sections originally rolled back to allow tall ships to pass. They can no longer be raised.



**Queensferry Bridge, 1926**



Next, after passing under A494, we came the **Saltney Ferry footbridge**, which we didn't cross at this time, which was built in the 1960s to replace a ferry. It's going to be closed in the near future for 'routine maintenance', so allow for that if you're planning a ride.

On then to Chester and **The Riverside Promenade Trail** to view what was to have been a new cycle and pedestrian bridge over the river at the side of the railway bridge - regrettably now postponed/scrapped as was this artist's impression of the original project near this point.



**Dee railway bridge**



**Artist's impression of the cancelled Dee Bridge**



**11ses at The Groves**

We stopped for 11ses at The Groves before crossing the **suspension bridge** into Queens Park.



After lunch at the **Grosvenor Garden Centre**, where **ice** had obviously been a problem earlier in the week, we were homeward bound.



When crossing the **Mold Junction Railway Bridge**, built in the 1880s to replace a level

crossing, we noticed the **remains of the engine sheds** on the left. Even after recent repairs, the bridge is still controlled by traffic lights due to weight restrictions.



**'Kissing gates' and the Dee footbridge**

Noting the 'kissing gates', which used to lead to the ferry, we crossed the Dee again on the footbridge.



The final bridge was the **very new one crossing the A5117**, enabling us to return to the Eureka for an early tea after an interesting day's ride.



This week we are indebted to Sonia for the Garmin route. Click <http://tinyurl.com/32fdapr> to see the route.

**Bob Witton**