

The Boat Inn, Erbistock and The Wirral Coastal Ride

30th September 2015

The A ride



Today's ride to **Erbistock** is the last of this year's A rides - the continued good weather was reflected in the turn out with eighteen riders outside the **Eureka** at 9:30am.

The Boat Inn Erbistock

Our destination was **Erbistock**, Its name is derived from **Erbin Stoke**, meaning **Erbin** a stockaded ford. There was once a parish church named after

Saint Erbin 427-480 - it's not all about the bike!.

Brian and **Sylvia** were our leaders along a route suggested by **Brian L** that led us to the **blue bridge** and down the **River Dee** to **Saltney Bridge**.



River Dee Path

The route was similar to our ride to **Gresford** that went through **Bretton** and **Kinnerton**. It was in **Rossett** we met up with **Maly** who had arrived from **Warrington** with five minutes to spare, excellent timing!

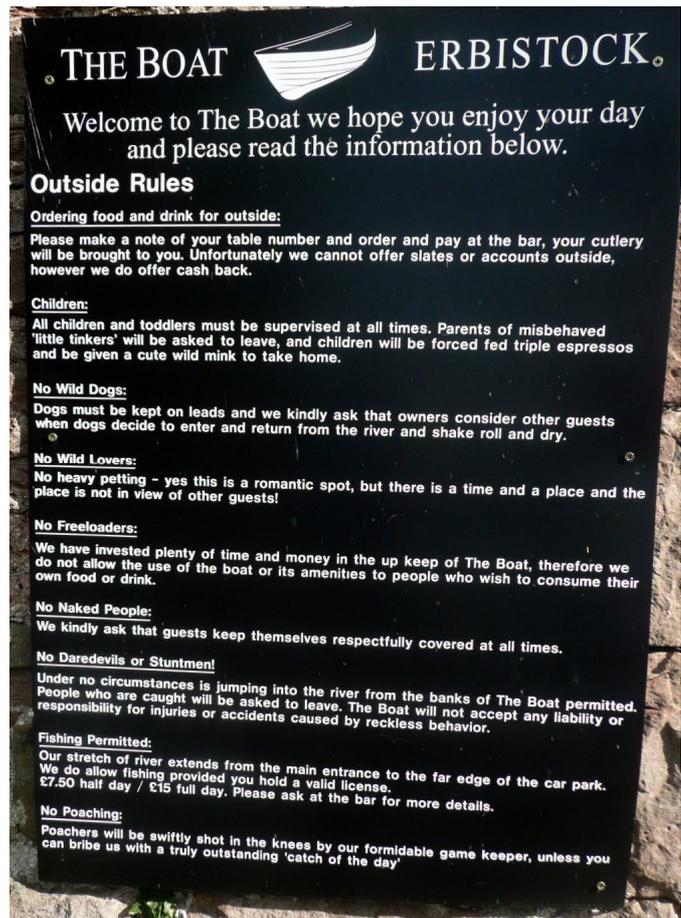
Brian leading



After a brief stop we headed through **Marford** where **John F** took a great photo of the water mill that was made famous in a **Turner** painting. Although we were following the **Gresford** route, it was a treat to ride down these quiet lanes until we neared **Wrexham**; it was here **Brian's Garmin** had a 'hiccup' but by referring to the map it was soon sorted out.

Watermill at Marford

Eventually we came across a sign pointing down a lane for the **Boat Inn** - if you were walking and thirsty you would have been disappointed as it was about three miles away.



George and Ada

There are two pubs in **Erbistock** - the **Cross Foxes** on **Overton bridge** dating from 1748, and in a fantastic setting, **The Boat Inn**. The remnants of the mechanism of a hand operated chain ferry are still there.

George and Ada were already enjoying their lunch - they were on a 'car assist'.

Although there was a very long downhill to the pub we did not have to return the same way thankfully. We passed the **Bangor on Dee** racecourse on our way to **Holt** for a coffee stop at **Cleopatra's** - they don't sell scones? Bring **Hildegard** back I say.



For the return route, **Waverton** was chosen over **Chester**, going through **Christleton** and the **Greenway** to complete the ride - so cheers **Brian and Sylvia** who didn't lose anyone off the back!

After lunch - a group photo

Chris Byrne

Photos by John F

The B Ride

A sizeable group of riders set off in lovely sunshine for a ride around the Wirral coastline led by Peter W. As the group was large it was split into two. Peter continued to lead the first group consisting mainly of Wednesday Riders. Sue B led a group of Fabulous Ladies in memory of Billie Fleming formerly known as Billie Dovey. She was a long distance cyclist who set the women's record for the greatest distance cycled in a year in 1938 at 29,603.7 miles. It had not been surpassed at the time of her death in 2014.

The group rode in an anti-clockwise direction via Burton and the Wirral Way, stopping for a break at Thurstaston Country Park. and on around the coast for lunch at The Floral Pavilion.



Billie Fleming



We were serenaded over lunch by an enthusiastic pianist playing a variety of nostalgic songs. The return route went via Woodside, Port Sunlight and back to the Eureka - mileage Eureka to Eureka was 42 miles. A very good ride - thank you to Peter and Sue.

Glennys