

The Piper, Piper's Ash - 25th January 2017



Ash pub for lunch.

On my way to the **Eureka** I noticed something rustling in a field and would you believe it, as the leaves cleared it was a 'Wee, slekit, cowrin, tim'rous, beastie', and I realised it was the 25th January, **Burn's Night**. What a day it was, not a cloud in the blue sky, although quite cold, but not cold enough to stop twenty-four riders going to the **Pipers**

I think **John's** interesting description of the route had encouraged some to do the ride, his e-Mail mentioned some points of interest on the way. I'm still in the dark regarding the '**mushroom farm**', although it was to be a ride of extreme contrasts. We had the chocolate box village of **Burton** with excellent views of **North Wales** across the **Dee**, then to the nice village of **Eastham** - but it all changed as we entered the '**Northern Powerhouse**' that is **Ellesmere Port**. I would like to add to **John's** comments with regard to the first **W1 RAF hangers**. Before the airport, there was a stately home there called **Hooton Hall**. The owners had a yacht on the **Mersey** until they built the **Manchester Ship Canal**. It was also the site of a racecourse with over 2000 attending. The aristocrats were the **Stanley's**, the **Derby's** and **Lord Bunbury** and they all enjoyed horse racing. The story goes: **Lord Derby** and **Lord Bunbury** wanted to sponsor a race, is it **Epsom** or **Ascot**? They tossed a coin; the result is we have the **Derby**.

We were riding in two groups with **Chris S** leading one and **John** the second; I think with him taking photos. Leaving chemical alley we returned to country lanes and went through the award winning village of **Christleton** to the venue, where **Bob and Jill** met us. The staff made us very welcome and their food got the thumbs up also - I think we will be going back.

Our return took us past **Chester Zoo** and through the gates; it had warmed up as the day went on making it a very enjoyable ride. so thanks again to **John and Chris**.

Well apart from it being **Burns Night**, that amazing **Wikipedia** records that a remarkable woman by the name of **Nellie Bly** (real name **Elizabeth Jane Cochran**) sponsored by her paper completed a round the world trip in 72 days in 1890. She also agreed to go on an undercover

assignment by feigning insanity to investigate reports of brutality and neglect at a women's lunatic asylum on **Blackwell's Island**. She wrote a report "*Ten Days in a Madhouse*". She died on 27 Jan 1922 aged 57.

Another worth a mention was **Frank Soo** being the first non white footballer to play for **England** (9 times). He began his career with **Cheshire League side Prescot Cables** before moving to **Stoke** in 1933. He guested for **Newcastle, Everton and Blackburn**. Chelsea popped his studs in 1991.

1533 Henry V111 marries 2nd wife Anne Boleyn

Born

1759 Robert Burns

1852 Virginia Woolf

1942 Eusebio

1942 Thailand declares war on USA & Britain

On this day we lost a wonderful woman and dear friend **Dorothy Clift**, a keen cyclist and missed very much. In case you don't know, her husband **Bob** mapped the **Cheshire Cycleway**.

***"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit."***

Robert Burns