

35th Anniversary rides to Old Priest House, Audlem, 100 miles from Eureka, 100km from Malpas - 20th June 2018

From Chris L...

John F got quite a surprise when sixteen of us turned up at the Eureka on Wednesday morning at 9am! (I suspect he was expecting about 6). The distance hadn't put people off and the forecast wasn't that good. We split in to two groups of eight with Chris S leading a faster group and John the rest.

The Garmin route was a little out of sync until we got to the river but from then on all was well and both leaders knew where they were going. A short break at Holt gave those of us with bananas time to eat them before moving on via Tilston to Malpas where a welcome coffee awaited us. Brian L had led a shorter route from here starting at 10am - they'd already left and John's group arrived just as we were leaving.

It was just after here where our only incident occurred - we encountered a "Road Closed" sign which, being regular cyclists we ignored, however down the following Hill there was a cage completely blocking the road - Ho hum, so back up the hill we went with a quick message to John's group before diverting to rejoin the route and little further down the road.



There followed some wonderful traffic free roads (apart from a short stretch around Whitchurch, the A41) via Market Drayton and north to Audlem. The Old Priest House was very welcoming. Brian L and Glennys (who'd led an even shorter route) were just leaving. We had reserved tables, the menu was reasonable and service was swift!

Audlem seems a nice place; some of the pubs looked good too (another time maybe!).

John's group arrived as we were finishing (Liz bought some jellybabies for later - sweets all sold loose from jars - just like the old days....aaah!)

There was another slight diversion as we were trying to get out of **Audlem** (a bridleway - a local asked where our final destination was - burst out laughing!). More wonderfully quiet roads all the way to **Bunbury**, (a little traffic at **Nantwich** - school time!) and a welcome drink at the **Nags Head** (cake, cake and more cake!) 78 miles down! Home was then via **Beeston, Huxley, Waverton, Pipers Ash, (jellybabies!)**, the **Greenway** where people started going their own way, however **Mari, Peter, Helen** and **I** were back at the **Tudor Rose** car



park for 7pm and allowed ourselves a group hug! Thank you **John** for an excellent day's riding.

Chris posted this on **Facebook** which produced a response from **John F**

What you haven't mentioned **Chris** is that the "cake, cake and more cake" was supposed to be shared between the sixteen riders, The first eight **gannets** cleared the plate and the second group had to put up with **Swiss Roll** that the **Landlord** went next door to the **Co-op** to buy 🙄

This in turn produced a response from **Liz...**

Hi **John**, Just to clarify **Cakegate**. I was concerned that the plate of

cake brought to the table was for both groups. I asked the **Landlord** not once, but twice if the plate was for both groups and both times. He replied that it was for our group alone and that another plate would be given to yours. On the second occasion, he said that you were also getting **Swiss Roll** which we didn't have. When we left there was still cake left. I am mortified to hear that he blamed us for eating all the cake as it couldn't have been further from the truth. Thanks for all your hard work in making it such an enjoyable ride. and on it went...

From Brian L

Wednesday Riders 35th 100km Anniversary Ride - Car Assist from Malpas to Audlem. Seven of us set off on the **B5395** in a blustery wind and threatening showers to find a road closure after just a mile. A short diversion had us back on route again. After navigating through **Whitchurch, Ruth** and **Julian** left us to make their own way and

we were down to five. The wind was generally in our favour and we made good time arriving in **Audlem** at about 12-15pm. **Glennys**, **Sue F** and **Mike C** who had ridden from **Wrenbury**, arrived a few minutes later followed shortly by **Ruth** and **Julian**. **Mike**, back on the bike after his accident, planned to make his own leisurely way back to **Wrenbury** so after wining and dining nine of us set off on the 35mile (ish) return leg to **Malpas**.

Other than my **Garmin** letting me down after a mile or two (someone said it was operator error but I am sure it was one of those **Garmin** glitches) we continued without incident until just outside **Nantwich**. Our peace was disturbed by a loud report which sounded to me just like a shot being fired. It was just **Sue S** announcing a puncture. I expected to see her tyre in bits but **Chris D** soon had it fixed, proving that the age of chivalry is not entirely dead - and we were back on the road again. We successfully navigated our way through **Nantwich** town centre with which pleased me as I had lost my way here on my **Friday recce** and which had cost me an extra six miles by



the time I found the route again.

We arrived at **Nantwich Marina** for a tea stop about 15.45pm but soon realised that the Staff were not best pleased to see us - something to do with attitude and thunderous faces. It subsequently transpired that they were due to close up at 16.00hrs. Onward we rode with **Glennys** and **Sue F** leaving us to return to **Wrenbury** via **Ravensmoor** and

seven of us continued without incident to **Malpas** to earn the tee-shirt. As a group we would like to extend our hearty thanks and appreciation to **John F** for organising this very enjoyable event.

From Chris S... FLYBYS

I have, thanks to those riders who use Strava captured the following video of our progress. Thanks to Rich for capturing Brian's group and to John W for the first half of John F's group's ride. I couldn't associate his second half recording.

When my group got to the road blockage I texted John to tell him to turn right and then left to get around it. Unfortunately he thought I meant the first right, not the one by the road closed sign. This resulted in a longer diversion than necessary and a very steep hill. You can see this and other things on [this video](#).