

## Cotebrook Shire Horse Centre -22nd May 2019

From Chris L...

I understand there may have been twenty+ riders ready for the off outside the **Eureka** on Wednesday. I say this since I didn't see **Jane** after leaving and opted to go on **Richard's** longer (and faster) ride to the same venue - having said that, I didn't see that much of **Richard** either; by the time we turned in to **Chapel Lane** **Richard** was disappearing out of sight getting maximum points on the **Capenhurst Stage!** So there were eight of us (or seven + **Richard**) on that ride and I was told **Jane's** group split into two of around eight or nine each (thanks to **Dave W** for leading one of the groups).



We made fairly swift progress taking the gated route (whose turn is it?) through to **Backford** before heading out to **Mickle Trafford** for a brief water stop before a regroup at **Morley Lane**. I was pleasantly surprised to find **Richard** declining to take us up **Cob Hall Lane** but on to **Mouldsworth** and through **Delamere** (also missing out **Yeld Lane** as per **Jane's**



route!). No time for dithering so on to **Norley** and **Coddington** (**Richard** neglected looking at the



**Garmin** here so some of us had a hilly diversion whilst **Chris S** followed the prescribed route and was waiting for us after we rejoined!). It was at this point we were all a bit knackered (am I allowed to say that on here?) and **Harry** produced a banana (I'd forgotten mine and wasn't going to pay **Eureka's** price for one).

On to **Sandiway**, **Little Budworth**, past **Oulton Park** (quiet day there) to **Oulton Mill**

**Pond** - stopped to see birdlife and two very new houses (identical) before arriving at the venue. We decided to go to the **Alvanley Arms** for a beer and some very nice sandwiches - a bit pricier than our usual fayre but really good (with.. soup and.. chips!) - the beer was good too! We started by sitting outside in the sun but reckoned it was a tad breezy so we headed inside. **Jane's** groups

turned up soon after and went to the **Shire Horse Centre** (a regular haunt, perhaps someone can enlighten us here?).



We all left virtually together, crossing the main (and busy) road before heading up to **Utkinton** where some of **Jane's** group waited for us to whizz past (huff, puff - it was on a hill!). Then on to **Willington hall** - they had a sign especially made for us telling us how 'Fabulous' we were

(Ooh, i'm going all **Craig Revel Horwood Fab-U-Lous**)...

A final bumpy run to the **Pack Horse Bridges** over the **Gowy** where we stopped for a photo opportunity (I can't ride over these) - **Tony** had picked up my tyre levers which had bounced out of my seat pack (I only noticed a few days later that my padlock had also gone - second one in a few



weeks!). These bridges had been built in far off days for transporting wool, salt and other goods to the **Mersey**.



On to **Christleton** and the **Greenway** where we said goodbye to **Richard** (at least a couple of us did - most were too far back!), **Blue Bridge** where **Harry** and **Chris** carried on to the **Marsh Path**, **Peter**, **Paul** and I went up **Woodbank** to **Two Mills** car park.

Thanks **Richard/Jane** for an excellent day out; the weather was good - 52.5 miles round trip with 2000ft climbing.

**Text and photos by Chris L**

