

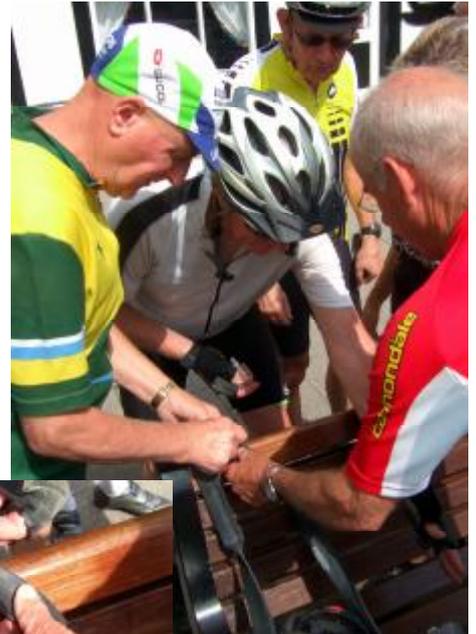
Norton Priory - 18th June 2014

Perfect weather attracted eleven riders for the 9:30am start from the **Eureka**, another four would join us after a car assist to **Frodsham**. The main road through **Frodsham** is unique; it's very wide and on either side are blue plaque heritage buildings. It's also home to **Bob Carolgees** (spit the dog) **Gary Barlow**, **Daniel Craig** (007) **Caradog Jones** first taffy to summit Everest, **Djbril Cisse L.F.C** who was **Mayor of Frodsham**.

No definite route was decided to **Frodsham**, three chose to go over the **Ince marshes**, the rest down various lanes. **Tony Small** would then guide us to **Norton Priory**.

We were going to split up at the **Sainsbury** roundabout, but a puncture in **Capenhurst Lane** saw the three marshes men carry on - it should be said to a chorus of boos. This desertion, they argued, was due to having a longer ride to **Frodsham**.

The three deserters were half way across the marshes when the puncture curse that follows **Mike K** struck again despite being on his mountain bike.



This delay though, meant we all arrived at the same time.

After our tea break **Tony** led us off to the **Priory**; he deserves a lot of credit for remembering all the twists and turns. He had told the cafe we should arrive at 1:30pm and he was spot on. Near the entrance there is a massive statue of **St. Christopher** dating back to the middle ages. I think it compares with the '**David**' in **Florence**.



St Christopher (the one on the left!)

The food was good and served up very quickly by Shirley, a cheerful and friendly waitress. Some of the thirstiest of us tried the local beer Priory Ale and gave it the thumbs up. Our return route was to take us along the Trans-Pennine Way which is overgrown in parts but a good way to go past Fiddlers Ferry to Spike Island cafe for our tiffin.

Group outside Norton Priory



Access was blocked due to construction on the new Mersey bridge but Tony found a way around it. In Frodsham when we parted with the car assist team, we split up as some wanted to

ride the quickest way back (main road) while some who were in no hurry went with **Brian L** down the lanes.



Fiddlers Ferry and Runcorn Bridge

There's a sign in the **Priory** telling you that **William Gladstone** stayed there for his honeymoon... why? Maybe it was the good food, or the local brew. It was rumoured that **Mrs Gladstone** a devout woman was looking to improve her missionary position within the church.

To finish this tale, two events took place on this date. Seventy-five years ago **Eugen Weidmann**

was the last person to be publicly guillotined in **France**, and **Siam** changed its name to **Thailand** which means 'free land'.

Good weather, Good food, Good ride, Good company = Serendipity - Cheers **Tony**.



Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson