

Okells Garden Centre, Duddon - 5th November 2014

Today's ride to **Duddon** took place on one of our countries most infamous dates in 1605 when the bangers never went off; it's also a place worthy of any Halloween story!

The name of the pub in **Duddon** is "The Headless Woman". It's based on a story when during the **Civil War** in 1664 a woman named **Grace Trigg** was found hiding in the attic by



Cromwell's men after the **Royalist** owners had fled. They tortured her to find out where the family valuables were hidden. When she wouldn't tell them they beheaded her in the attic and dumped her body in the **Gow** near the pack horse bridges by **Platts Lane**.

The Headless Woman pub (demolished)

The Pack Horse Bridges

Researchers 300 years later found bloodstains in the attic and her ghost has been seen by the bridges and in the pub carrying her severed head. Unfortunately, the pub was knocked down this year; those demolition people have blood on their hands, or is it sledgehammers?



I revisited our ride to **Cotebrook** and looked again at our pics of the bridges, I couldn't believe my eyes - there she was near the bridge!! I was told she probably only appears around **Halloween** and will fade from the photo.

Graham was our volunteer for the MYOW ride and the turnout was the biggest of the year. We split into two groups about thirteen in each and set off in brilliant sunshine towards **Woodbank**. I was in the second group with **Brian L** and we both thought we were going down the **Greenway** to **Chester**



Along the river and by the Racecourse

but **Brian** spotted the lead group heading for the blue bridge along the river to **Chester**. The wind was behind us - it always helps on this stretch, but our newest recruit **Tony**, on a heavy looking bike was slowing down. We had a break at the **Groves** where we met up with **Bob** and **Jill** who were going to a different venue. Our leader took us past the **Bike Factory** then on to **Saighton** and **Bruera** past **Old Ma's café** and the black swans at **Hoofield**. It came as a surprise to most of us on arrival that the old café was replaced by a brand new one and making themselves at home were Mike C. **George and Ada**, **Peter W**, **Roy**, **Glennys**, and **Chris R**. With 30 hungry cyclists to feed the service was going to be a bit slow.



I was able to have a brief chat with **Chris** regarding his trip to **France** with the **CTC**; there were twenty-four in the group who visited two of the **D-Day beaches** - a good trip. The only downside was that their hotel was on the top of a hill, so a great start to the day but tough at the finish. Good to see **El Presidente** out and about "*all he wants for xmas is a ride on his bike*".

Before we set off back **John** somehow managed to get us all together for a photo, then we split into two groups again for the ride home.



So Many for lunch at Okells!

I set off with the first team with **Colin** and **Tony** but as we passed the **Crocky Trail** **Tony** was slowing down and **Colin** said to carry on. I was catching the group up when my phone

rang. I missed which way they went - it was **Christleton** or **Guilden Sutton**, I got it wrong and chose the former completing the ride down the **Greenway** on my own. **Graham** passed me in the opposite direction in **Woodbank**.

(The ride (to Okells)... had the largest number of riders this year at 29. The previous record was 26 on the Dunham Arms ride on March 12th 2014, (ed: info from John F who loves his stats).

I was unable to thank him for a very enjoyable ride, so thanks **Graham**. So it's Remember, Remember this ride in **November**:

"The sun shone throughout the day

Not a cloud in the sky

So don't feel sorry for Guy"

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson

Footnote (ed):

Instead of joining the larger group, Roy and I accompanied Peter to Okells because Peter was going to ride alone. He deserved some company. On the way Peter's wallet fell out of his unzipped bumbag containing cash and his CTC card. Despite phoning the Eureka from Okells and retracing the route after lunch we didn't find it. I'm delighted to say that an honest young cyclist found it in Picton Lane. He phoned CTC who contacted Peter. Job well done - and thankyou!! (Glennys)