

Not Chester Lakes but Okells Garden Centre Café

7th December 2016

Today's ride was to be led by **Andy** to the **Cheshire lakes**, so forget that - it never happened. First poor **Andy** was not feeling good and second **Brian L** heard the **Lakes** only had a marquee for refreshments, o.k. for tough fishermen but no good for tender cyclists. It was Okells that got the o.k.

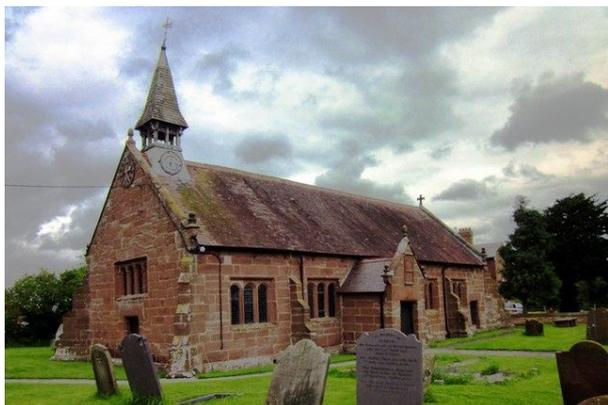
Life never stops giving us surprises, what with **Brexit**, **Trump**, **L.F.C.** leading **3-1** and getting beaten **4-3** - what next? Well the **Eureka** was closed and the ride started ON TIME. This led to a bit of a shambles as a group of four remained to catch any LATE comers. I arrived about two minutes past ten and if I had not cut short a necking session with my wife I would have missed the second start, as did poor **Brian L**. **Brian** had met up with the ON TIME group who told him there were still riders at the bus stop, so he tried to join our group but alas too late. We only got the **Low down** later - a series of missed calls and voice mails etc. The down side was he rode alone, but he did get some extra miles in.

Today was the first time in ten days there was no frost in **Britain** - it was very mild with a slight breeze - brilliant for December. We went down **Woodbank** heading for **Saughall** and the **Greenway**, coming off at **Pipers Ash** - a straight forward route through **Waverton** and **Christleton** past the **Crocky Trail** and **Walk Mill café**.

At a nice leisurely pace and with the sun now on our backs we arrived just before 12:00 getting the benefit of fast and friendly service. **Brian L** arrived shortly after us and joined **George** and **Ada** on the next table, the ON TIME group 20 minutes later having had a coffee/tea stop at Meadow Lea coffee shop.



Knowing **Sue** was not in our group the decision to leave and go without a **Jelly Baby** was made setting off the way we came as far as **Waverton**. To vary the ride we went through **Stoak** and down to the **A5117** cycle path.



St Peter's Church, Hargrave

As a last attempt to bring some interest to the blog I was curious to establish how a place we cycled through got its name (**Fouk Stapleford**) but was unable to throw any light on it, other than the village of **Hargrave** is in its parish and

the church there - **St. Peters** - dates back to 1627, originally built as a chapel and school. It was paid for by **Thomas Moulson** who came from the village and later became **Mayor of London**. Not quite as old is our venue for our Christmas lunch at Trafford hall (1756).

Trafford Hall

Its original use is unknown but today it is a **National Communities Resource Centre** offering training and support to all those living and working in low income areas. It's function is to develop their skills confidence and capacity to tackle problems and reverse poor conditions. Make note Teresa!.



We're looking forward to our Christmas lunch next week and in case there are not any crackers, here are a few to keep you cringing:

- How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 7lb:6oz when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger.
- Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer.
- I've started a business building yachts in my attic. Sails are going through the roof.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- Bought a litre of Tipp-ex yesterday, huge mistake.
- My wife asked me if I could stop singing Wonderwall. I said Maybe.
- Just watched a wildlife documentary on beavers. Best dam programme I've seen in a long time.

Also on this date - Dec 7th

In 1703 - *The great storm, the greatest windstorm ever recorded in the south of England gusts up to 120mph killed 9,000 people*

In 1869 - *American outlaw Jesse James robs his first bank*

IN 1941 - *Attack on Pearl Harbour*

Chris Byrne

Stormy weather



Jesse James

Pearl Harbour

