

A tale of two villages (best kept)

November 4th and November 11th 2015

Royal Oak, Higher Kinnerton, November 4th

As your bloggist has been on school runs for the last two weeks, I can only report on the outward journey of the rides. The November 4th ride to the **Royal Oak in Higher Kinnerton** was led by **John and Helen Walker**. It was one of **John's** first rides leading the **Wednesday Riders**. The conditions were good and about fourteen of us set off. It wasn't long before **John** did the first of his checks, dropping back



making sure everyone was O.K. particularly his better half **Helen**. At **Queensferry** **John** chose to get to **Northop** via **Golftyn Lane** - not the easiest way but a feel-good when reaching the top. Our route took us into the **Green** and along this section we had our banana stop. After **Buckley** we enjoyed some colourful lanes, and as we reached **Lower Mountain Lane** it was time for me to return along with **Mike K.** and **Mike M.** What followed in the pub has been well covered and the rides committee has agreed to 'Axe The Oak'. **Higher Kinnerton** was voted 'Best-kept Village in **Cheshire**' in 2001-2-3-4 - pity the landladies were not included. Despite the uncomfortable feeling this left, it did not spoil what was a good ride - so thanks **John** and assistant **Helen**.

Cheshire Cat, Christleton, November 11th



This ride on **Remembrance Day** was to Christleton, another best-kept village in 2012-2014, and led by another leader **Peter Leach**. What **Pete** hasn't learnt yet though is - don't do your reccy when it's raining all day - (respect mate). A few things worth a mention, the **Domesday Book** refers to it as **Christleton**, and the old hall dates from the 17th Century, It was built for a member of the **Egerton**

family of **Tatton Park**. It's most famous son was **Lt. Colonel John Dolphin** an engineer/ inventor

who became the Commanding Officer of the top secret **WW2 Special Operations Executive S.O.E. Station X**. Rumour has it his men liked to go swimming with him!

Peter split us into two groups of twelve before setting off in very windy conditions - the destination being the **Cheshire Cat**. In **Capenhurst Lane**, **Martin** was despatched to reel **Pete** in as he would have had us at the pub before it was open, then the pace was easier and we relaxed.

Christleton Old Hall



The route led us down **Dunkirk Lane** and through the gates - only last week, **Janet G** and friends - along with **Sustrans** - gave up their time to clear leaves from the path. They did a brilliant job, and yet I overheard someone say "*hey look, they missed a patch*" It was pointed out that the leaves are still falling and that seemed to calm the complainant down. Well done the leaves crew. **Backford** and **Stoak** came next and It was around here **Pete** pulled into a lay-by at 11:00am, as we paid our respects with a minute's silence. The only hill of any note was going through **Barrow**. **Stamford Bridge** was next. After crossing the A41, we enjoyed the long and winding lane that leads to the pub, arriving spot on time. A late arrival was **Alan O**. After a sandwich I made my exit along the canal to **Waverton**. So thanks **Pete** for a good half ride. I think you have a good future as a ride leader.

Chris Byrne



Remembrance Day Poppies