

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>



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 17<sup>th</sup> 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**