

JODRELL BANK RIDE - 23rd MAY 2010

We met at Acton Bridge - not Acton Bridge Station, not Acton Bridge Village but at Acton Bridge.

It's white and very big. Not at all difficult really, for most of us!

Acton Bridge

If a new prospective member, Janet, from North Island New Zealand, found it, what was the problem?



We had prior parking permission from the landlord of the Leigh Arms pub, so, after taking the opportunity for a group photo pose next to a parked steam

engine, we set off, well oiled against the already hot sun, along

Route 70 - The Cheshire Cycleway.



An early puncture at exactly 11 o'clock provided an excellent break for a much needed drink and a snack.

A reasonably well signed route took us via Wilmslow and up to Alderley Edge, a 19th C railway town which became much more important than the nearby village of Chorley.

A 1.00pm, lunch was at **The Cock Inn, Henbury** where the bar staff had little sense of humour but did serve good, substantial plain food at reasonable prices. By the way, The Cock has nothing to do with hens & chickens, but originally referred to The Cock male horse which helped to assist with heavy loads up to the top of the nearby steep hill.



Jodrell Bank Telescope

Having fed and re-oiled, the temperature was now 26 C (80 F), we again largely followed route 70 to Jodrell Bank, home of the Lovell Telescope, still the biggest and most powerful radio telescope in the world. Its 4,700 tonnes can rotate on its 107 metres of railway track.

On then via a very pretty part cobbled stone lane and path through **The Peovers** to **Great Budworth**, a very old world village



where we paused to look at the church tower. Are the cast iron supports holding it together the result of salt mining subsidence?



Great Budworth Church Tower

During the day we were never far from reminders that salt was and still is a major industry in Cheshire. The 'Wyche towns' like Northwich, the many meres, the result of salt springs and subsidence, were the result of salt mining. The nearby Anderton Boat Lift was built to speed up the export of rock salt.

At 4.30pm we were back at Acton Bridge having covered the promised 60 miles.

What a wonderful well planned and researched ride.
Many thanks to Chris & Brian.



Chris and Brian



Spot on – again!

What a great idea these car assisted rides are. We must have more.

A proposal at the next AGM perhaps?

Bob Witton.