

Red Lion, Dodleston - 4th February 2015



Today's ride to the Red Lion in Dodleston was to be led by Chris and Sue but unfortunately Chris was not feeling very well, so bounce back as soon as you can mate, we will miss you Chris, but what is almost as bad is missing Sue's Jelly

Babies. Jokes aside, Colin stepped into the breach.

It had been another very cold night - there were frozen puddles alongside the roads, but thankfully they seemed o.k. Colin split us into two groups for safety about seven in each, although a third group emerged that wanted to ride at a slower pace. Roy said he would take the lead. I joined up with Roy along with six others. I thought we were doing the same route but Roy had other ideas. He took us along the Dee into Chester.

We had a tail wind and with the sun in a clear sky, It just felt the best place to be on a bike. Roy stopped by the bandstand for our banana break but the toilets were closed - Ruth and Julian caught us up and stayed with us.

We crossed the bridge and headed to Eccleston where conversations covered a plane hitting a bridge, and Lance Armstrong involved with a hit and run incident - could he be reduced to roller skates? The straight mile came next, Glennys said Roy has stepped up the pace. She said when Roy did his reccy he spotted some snowdrops and was in a hurry to show them to us. As we closed the gap I could hear Roy singing "*Snowdrops, and Bluebells and Daffodils with no hills, these are a few of my favourite things*".

Roy still had another point of interest. He stopped just before Dodleston and showed us a plaque commemorating forty years since the Queen's Coronation and where forty trees had been planted. While we stopped to look at the plaque the other groups sped past - thinking more about their food than taking in a bit of history and culture. How does it go "*We have no time to stand and stare*".

Mike C and Chris Reeve and wife Ann arrived by car, where after an enjoyable lunch Colin gave us a choice as to how many miles we would like to do. I went with about fourteen others on a nineteen-mile course heading to Chester Zoo - although, now into the wind the views of the snow on the Welsh hills were brilliant. As we crossed the Dee we met up with the rest of our group.

We forgot to ask In the pub why the sign outside the pub has a white lion on It and not a red one - another of life's mysteries. There is I think a very interesting family history connected to Dodleston - the Mallory name, that of Everest fame - is worth taking a look at or - without recapitulating (dying to use that word) - you could read the blog from November 20th 2014. I have attached a couple of photos missed from that blog. You can tell by Mallory's expression that only an accident would prevent him standing on the top of Everest. His and Irvine's attempt are commemorated in a window in Chester Cathedral.

Many thanks to Colin and Roy for another very enjoyable ride.

Sad to report the loss of Mavis Jones a member of the original 'Ledsham Section' and the CTC. for many years. Some of us may not remember her but our thoughts are with her family.

Her funeral is at Landican 11th February 10.30am.

Chris Byrne

