

## The Boot, Northop - 20th April 2016

What a fantastic turn out for **Brian** and **Sylvia**'s ride to **Northop**, I only found out on the day that **Steve G** keeps a book on all our rides and with thirty-two it must be a record in **Guinness's book**.



With such a turn out it was always going to be difficult to keep together, and after negotiating the gates and rounding **Chester Zoo** it did start to fragment.

### The Boot Inn

I ended up in a group of eight that meandered around **Newton**, but amazingly met up with the rest as we joined the **Greenway**.

Over the **Hawarden Bridge** we headed to our toughest climb up **Papermill Lane to Northop**. The name **Northop** is derived from '**North Hope**', to distinguish it from nearby **Hope**, also known as '**East Hoped**', whereas **West Hope** is twinned with **Bob Hope**! Its **Welsh** name is **Llaneurgain** which translates as "**The Holy enclosure of Eurgain**". The churchyard of **St. Eurgain & St. Peter** still houses the old **Grammar School** built during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Some of our group turned left at the **Northop** traffic lights putting in an extra three miles; they turned right near the top of the hill and returned down the green.

There were mixed reports regarding the food, eggs overdone, chips underdone, the fish got a higher perch - I think it was '**Sole, a boot special**'. Did you know the French word for boot is sabot, saboteurs, boot boys.

Delays in being served meant some were looking to set off, so I joined **Brian L** with eight others going along the green to **Altami** and **Pennyford**. The **Dingly Dell** took us to **Hawarden** turning right to go past the **airbus factory**. This was where **Wally** was plane spotting and he crashed into the kerb taking a hard landing into the bushes. He emerged unhurt but shaken, it seems a front wheel puncture was the cause. **Brian L** and **Alan** said they would stay with him. We finished the ride with a tailwind along the river where I averaged 20mph, others around 24.

The same as last week the weather had made the day so enjoyable although I was unable to thank **Brian** and **Sylvia**, so thanks here.

Also another jelly babyless day. One last item - it was great to see **John F** back in the saddle so soon after his entanglement with a kerb in Chester - he explained he heard something fall from the bike, looked back went off piste, it turned out to be a pen, he said I won't do that again, but he can't make a Note of it !

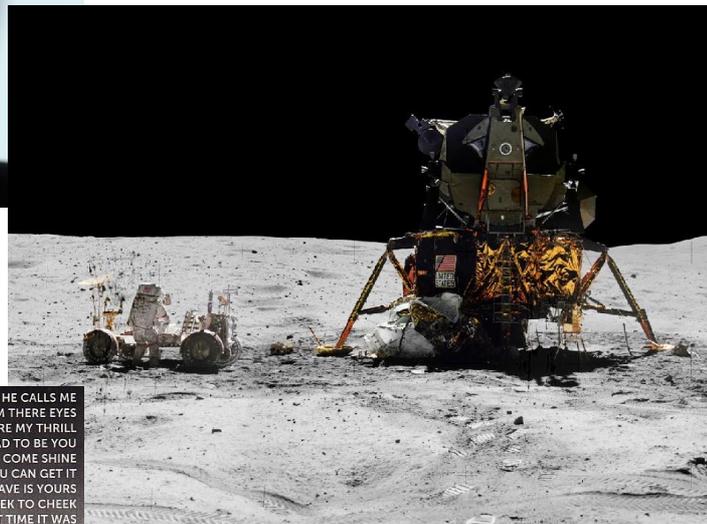
Re-cycle In 1945 Adolf celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by coming out the bunker, remarking "*I'm rubbish at war and worse at golf*".

In 1972 **Apollo 16** landed on the moon and in 1939 **Billie Holiday** recorded the first civil rights song "**Strange Fruit**" (worth a listen).

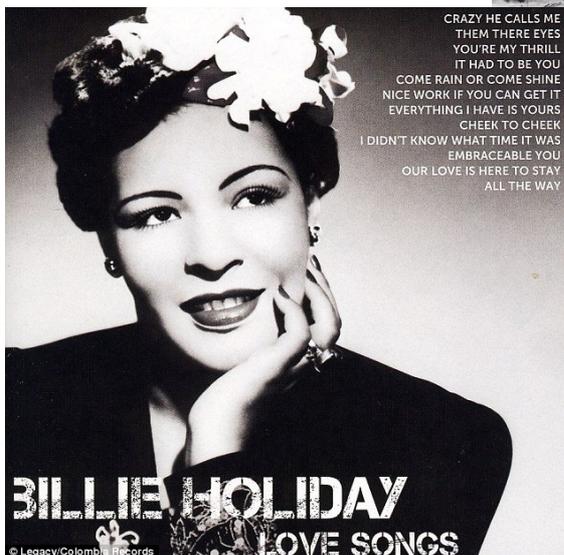
Only left to say sadly "*thanks for the laughs Victoria*".



**Victoria Wood**



**Apollo 16**



**Billie Holiday**