

Red Lion, Little Budworth - 10th August 2016



Good to be back - and thanks for all your e-mails to friends concerned about my absence. This was due mainly to having to be home early on Wednesdays for ballet lessons (not mine). I may have a touch of bloggers block but here goes, and not because it was my ride this week to the **Red Lion** in **Little Budworth**.

I arrived early at the **Eureka** to go over the route which **Brian L** had sent me as I had run out of time to do a reccy. Fortunately, **Brian** suggested we split into two groups of ten and that he would lead the first group. This came as a great relief as I would not take everyone to a White Lion or a Pink Lion by mistake.



We recruited two new riders, **Neil from Liverpool** who told us he needs to get his miles up as he is doing the end to end next month, I think the other person's name was **Mark** who is some outlaw of **Brian L**. Not completing our ride was **Brian and Sylvia and Ruth and Julian**.

The forecast said there was a chance of showers but thankfully we avoided any - although nearer the venue some lanes were flooded after downpours - very lucky. It was on today's date

in 2003 that **England** recorded the highest temperatures ever with over 100 deg F (38c) - warm enough to roast a kangaroo's bum.



Brian led us down **Capenhurst Lane** to **Coalpit Lane** where we had to negotiate five gates - being in the second group unfortunately (!) we didn't get to hold any open - never mind.

The climb up to the **Zoo** always clears the cobwebs, that was then followed by a banana stop in **Mickle Trafford**. As you approach **Oulton Park** you come across a very picturesque and peaceful scene (except when the motorbikes are practising) and

a lake with ducks and other wildlife on it.

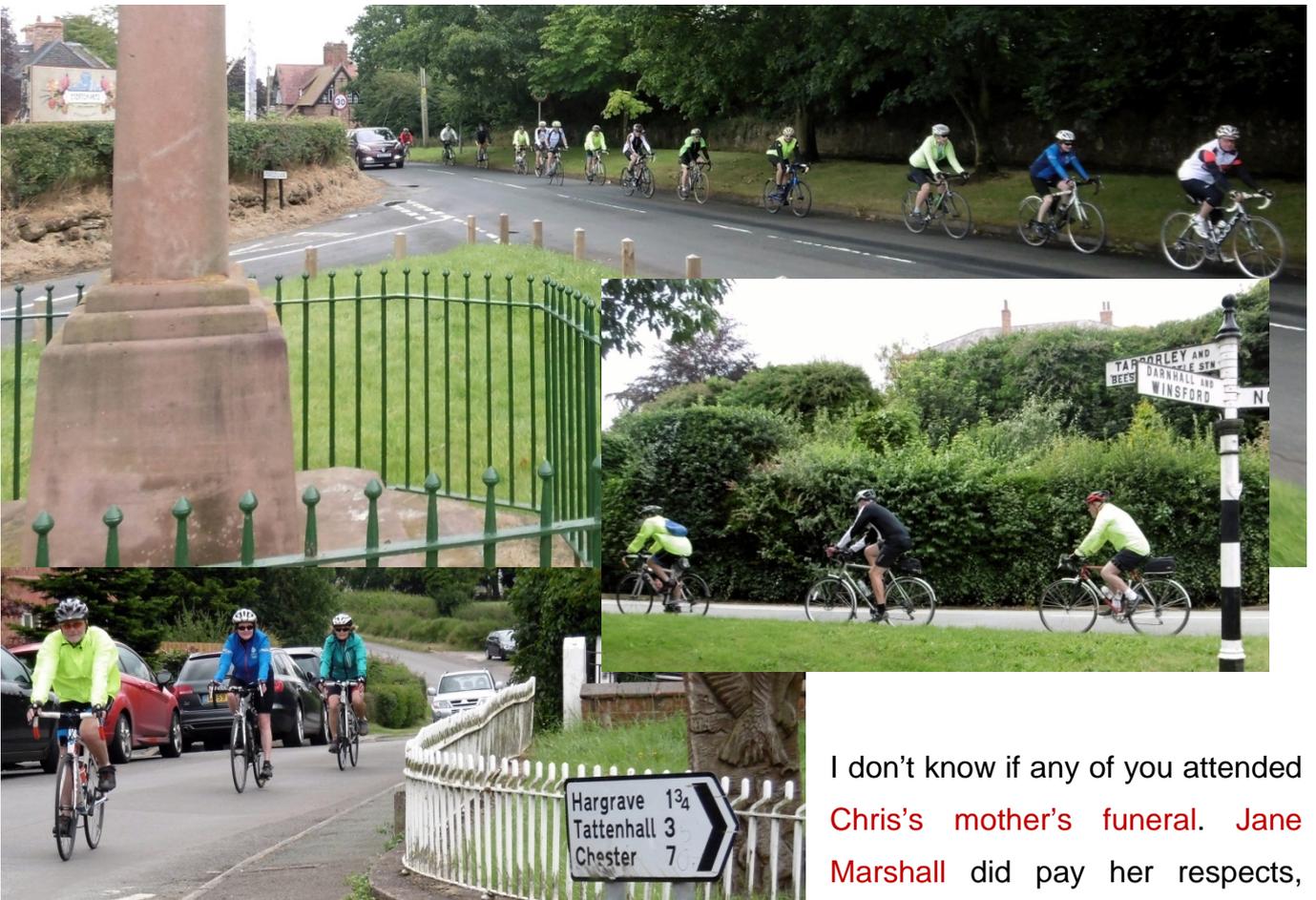


We arrived spot on time 12:30pm just as a group of ramblers were going in ahead of us, but we

didn't have to wait to long for our food which we all agreed was very nice. Along with **Chris Smith** and **Dave** I had returned on Monday from a ride from **Liverpool to Manchester** then via **Stoke to Birmingham**. **Chris S** was also talking about his recent visit to the **Isle of Man** where he



rode the T.T. course in over three hours, a bit behind **Chris Boardman** (in a little over an hour).



I don't know if any of you attended Chris's mother's funeral. Jane Marshall did pay her respects,

Chris did so well to commentate at the Olympics so soon after his mother's tragic death.



Our return took us back past the lake to Eaton then Tarporley and Waverton to the end of the Greenway - about 50 miles of very enjoyable cycling. After hearing bad reports about cyclists in Great Budworth, I can only think we would be very welcome in its little twin village.

Thanks again Brian.

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson