



'Wheel Easy`s Wednesday Christmas Lunch and all roads led to Ripon Spa Gardens Cafe'.

Due to the weather only a few EG's rode today. Martin organised a walk while the majority made their own way to Ripon.

At Spa Gardens Cafe we were met by the friendly staff with a non alcoholic fruit punch, the status of which was soon changed.

We had a very nice meal in a great friendly atmosphere, with Martin leading Wheel Easy`s thanks to the staff.

Walk Report

Twelve of us boarded the luxury (and heat) of the 36 bus as far as Quarry Moor outside Ripon. The lashing rain while we were on the bus let up for us to start walking but the ground had taken a good soaking and lots of off road walking was certain to mean we would rapidly become the dirty dozen. So we modified our route somewhat and enjoyed a walk across the open grassland near the River Skell with great views of the Minster. A heavy storm started again as we approached Ripon, so we short circuited the route and made it to Booth's supermarket for a leisurely coffee before heading to the Sun Pavilion cafe. As usual a great lunch was provided and thoroughly enjoyed with nefarious tales being swapped across the tables. A jolly homeward ride on the bus finished off a lovely day. Martin W

Click on slide show for all today's photos

EG's Ride Report

Our leader was absent again today, and this will be the reason for our delayed report. All of us waiting for somebody else to do the business! So I may be one of many EG's all writing a report a day late. Here goes anyway. We bravely assembled at Low Bridge, three to start with Bill Rob and John E, Terry and Norman joined us, after taking a coffee break on Waterside while waiting for others to arrive. As it was 10am we got ready to move out, Dave W was heading towards us followed later by Barrie who did a quick about turn. By the end of Abbey road Eric and Peter J had also joined the group. So considering the conditions a group of nine headed for our first stop at Morrisons Boroughbridge for coffee. Norman and Terry preferring to stop at Tasty Snacks, what a surprise! Our Coffee became a bit stronger and warmer, and much appreciated with the addition of some malt whisky thanks to Dave W. Now refreshed and ready for the worst the weather could throw at us, we thought, we reassembled to press on to Ripon, and our Christmas Lunch. Then it happened. We turned into the wind, and went into reverse, what a wind. Not to be outdone the rain decided to give the wind a run for its money and came down in bucket loads. We sheltered under the A1 underpass to regroup and get ourselves sorted out. Cold and shivering we continued on our way to Ripon. What a ride!! Never have we been so glad to reach our destination, and join our fellow Wheel Easy's for our lunch. We did notice a lack of cycles outside when we arrived though, I can't think why on such a lovely day! Plenty of good food and drink followed, and in good company, our dire journey was soon a distant memory. All too soon though it was time to saddle up and return, Colin joined us for the return, before turning off at Bishop Monkton. The rest of us made our way back hoping to beat the black clouds coming up behind, and to the side of us. Alas it was not to be, another drenching to finish. This is one Christmas lunch which will be talked about among the EG's for many years to come!!! John E

When I came out of the café, I found all the EGs had disappeared whilst I was getting togged up, so decided I might as well take the shortest route home down the A61, rather than chasing them via Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough. I was looking out for WE members on the two 36 buses that overtook me (1 single decker and 1 double decker), but couldn't see anybody through the spray! I arrived home at 4pm. I have been on better rides! Eric

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 300 YTD 167350



