

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

---

36 bus and walkers on their way to the Ripon Spa Parlour Christmas lunch. Martin led a 3 miler and a 5 mile plus walk starting at Quarry Moor and through Hell Wath and on to Studley and the deer park. Some of us turned off early to have coffee at Olivers Pantry denying some their usual tippie before the lunch!

Thanks to Paul for organising the lunch, another festive occasion for us all whether we arrived, by bike, bus or car. Gia M



### EGs' Ride

Unlike previous years, when we were faced with cold winds accompanied by snow like hail, this years ride to the Spa Gardens for christmas lunch was forecast to be dry & warm. So eight Wheel-Easy E.G.'s gathered at Low Bridge in anticipation of a easy & convivial ride to Ripon.

Calling at Morrison's, Boroughbridge for our usual coffee break, this time topped up with "Xmas Spirit" (Brandy or Whiskey) we continued on our way to Ripon. Our steady pace was overtaken by Richard Pugh and his group heading for the same venue but an unexplained diversion on their part meant we all arrived at the same time. As soon as we entered we were plied with a tasty "punch" drink which some of us were able to, once again, enrich with the usual "spirit" to warm up the blood, so to speak.

Many Wheel-Easy members had taken the easier option to take the No 36 bus followed by a short walk to the Sun Parlour as the venue was packed with little room to spare. Peter B. and Colin P. had cycled directly from their respective homes.

It was nice to see Dave P, our leader, was able to join us as he is currently recovering from a nasty fall, arriving by car, courtesy of Diane, Eric's wife (Thanks Di) and Rob W., who had earlier phoned to report he was "crook" but encouraged to join the feast anyway.

Theo had also made it and we were pleased to see he was still in high spirits despite his predicament, meaning he's being unable to join in the rides with the E.G.'s for some months. We all wish him well and hope circumstances improve so that he can rejoin us next year.

As usual the meal was excellent followed by coffee, mince pies & christmas cake. Gia had precluded the meal with the thank-up speech (Paul did an excellent job organising everything once again), so at 2.30pm we were able to make our way.

Some of the group were determined to continue to take advantage of the mild, dry weather and return home via Studley and Fountains. Others preferred to return the more direct route in order to beat the failing daylight as we approach the shortest day, completing 30 -35 miles.

Another "Wheel-Easy" Christmas coming to a close, the eighth, I think and I trust there will be many more of them.

A very Merry Christmas to all of the members and a Happy 2015. Dave W