

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Wednesday Rides



DUE TO SNOW, LED RIDES WERE CANCELLED. MEMBERS MET TO EITHER CYCLE OR WALK TOGETHER.

At 12.30 thirty two members met in Ripon for the Wednesday cyclists 'Christmas Dinner'.

Martin's

Walk

Walking across the Stray to the bus Yvonne and I realised it felt like the coldest day so far even if the mercury didn't confirm that. But the blue sky and bright sun on the snow looked promising. The front seats upstairs on the bus soon filled up with noisy children (sorry - cyclists), and the nice lady driver on the No 36 very smoothly delivered us to the crossroads by the Cascades Garden Centre. Paul said "It feels like the middle of nowhere" as we stepped off, and it strangely had an air of isolation but that lasted all of 10 seconds before the Wheel Easy chatter kicked in. The walk took us along the lane in the direction of Markington but then turning north before we reached the village. The fields were very well frozen making for relatively easy progress. We stopped to admire the glorious and old Markenfield Hall with its stunning architecture and frozen moat, and then soon arrived at Studley Park where we turned towards Ripon. It was at this point a hint of rebellion was noted when Gia said that despite walking all morning the Ripon Minster seemed to stay the same distance away. Well - what is the problem with walking in a circle I ask? At the Sun Parlour cafe the place was filled with warmth and chatter until a block of ice came in and sat down. The ice melted to reveal a yellow jacket and Malcolm inside it. But he thawed out and even rode home afterwards. Other riders came via Boroughbridge and a total of 31 enjoyed the meal and good company. Peter Bradley was the guest speaker, recently retired from Wikileaks, and he regaled us with a completely unlikely tale of mooning on a bike and even showing a fake photo in support. MI5 and the US Embassy is said to be taking a keen interest. Everyone then wandered off to the various modes of transport after a good day and super lunch. Many thanks to Paul for organising it and ensuring we ate what we ordered. Martin W

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