

Christmas Lunch, Trafford Hall - 9th December 2015

“Unaccustomed to public speaking” I was sitting quite content (full to bursting actually) after our meal today, when **Glennys** asked me as ride leader today to write today's blog. You can't refuse a pretty lady can you, so here goes.



After discussing in the **Eureka** which way we were going today, eleven of us set off after a leisurely start to **Saughall**, then straight over the Saughall road to **Mollington**. After our one true hill going up to the **A41** junction my phone started ringing. It always rings at an inconvenient time. We stopped to regroup and I checked my phone to see who had called. As is usual these days it was number not recognised. How many times do we get this? It is so frustrating having to stop and check your phone in case it is an emergency only to find it is a nuisance call (rant over).

We carried on, hopefully at a reasonable pace for everyone, through the small hamlets of **Cloughton**, **Wervin** and **Picton** to **Mickle Trafford** and along the **Helsby** road to **Trafford Hall**.

Trafford Hall was originally built in 1756 and is now the home of The **National Communities Resource**



Centre. This is a registered charity offering training and support to all those living and working in low-income areas throughout the **United Kingdom**. It helps to develop their skills, confidence and the capacity to tackle problems and reverse poor conditions. There is also a collection of eco-chalets set amongst fourteen acres of woodland.

We arrived with plenty of time to sit and enjoy a tea or coffee and a chat before our **Christmas** lunch with about thirty-five riders altogether. There were three selections for each course, and I must say our table were completely satisfied with what was on offer - I personally thought that this was the best food that we had had there for a few years.

Our **President Mike Cross** opened the festivities, followed by the saying of grace by **Mike M**. After a successful raffle which realised £74 to donate to **St John's Hospice**, organised by **John F**, **Bob W** closed proceedings and thanked **Mike Cross** for organising the event - which he's done successfully for many years - and other members of '**Wednesday Riders**' who ensure that rides are planned and led throughout the year. Throughout the meal a photo slideshow of the year's rides was shown by **John**. We commented that when you look at the photographs it takes a while to recognise certain places as they look different on film.

We gathered our things for a full-bellied ride home, but **Alan O** had his annual drama before we left. Last year it was a puncture, this year he lost the key to his bike lock. So to end the lunch we played a game of "find the key". It eventually turned up where **Alan** had been sitting having his arrival coffee.

After the ubiquitous picture outside the Hall, we set off for home. Sorry to say this was a drab affair as we just cycled straight along the **A5117** home with numerous long stoppages to cross roads. At least it gave our dinner chance to digest. Altogether an enjoyable day.

Mike Knox

Photos by Chris Lamb



The following photos were taken by Glennys during the lunch.



'til next year 2016