

Christmas Lunch, Trafford Hall 13th December 2017

I knew it was going to be a short ride so I set off a little earlier and rode through **Gayton** to **Thornton Hough** where I had a puncture. This repaired, I rode down the **A540** to the **Eureka** to find five others about to leave. We found the **Greenway** very icy so we diverted onto the **A548**, through **Saughall**, onto the **A5117** and past **Cheshire Oaks**. AT this point we were struck by heavy rain and a little hail.

We soldiered on along **Thornton Green Lane** and **Ince Lane** to **Trafford Hall**.

Bruce was initially told he was too late to be considered for the 'Festive Bike competition' but this was later relaxed since he was one of only two who made an attempt at the competition this year. Three other hardy cyclists (Including the winner,



Dave S) had ridden directly from **Wales** making nine in total who rode to the event.

I will leave it to others to comment on the lunch and proceedings, save only to say it was good to see **Tony S** , looking well after his recent crash, even though with arm in sling - and also to thank **Mike** and **John** for their hard work in preparing for the event - which ran very smoothly.

Then back onto our bikes along the **Greenway**, through **Saughall**, and back past the **Eureka**, home.

Competition

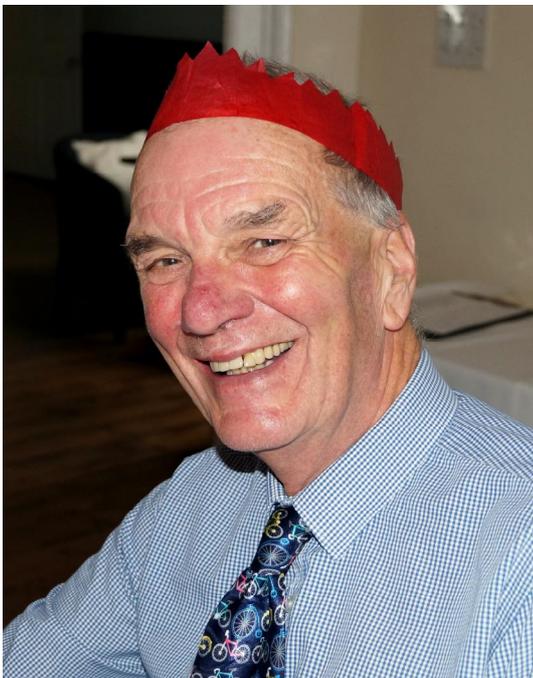
One of the highlights of the **Christmas** lunch event was a photo competition - silhouettes of nine riders with names to be added. I have attached the sheet (pdf file) and those not present may like to guess the names - answers next week with an extra unseen photo.

Chris Smith

Christmas Lunch

The photo of **Trafford Hall** (above) certainly doesn't reflect the wet and cold weather on the day - it would have been nice if it was sunny - we might have had more riders on bicycles. Despite instructions from **Mike C** to get there early for the judging of the bicycle competition at 11.30am, decorating bikes in festive livery was definitely not a priority. The priorities for the nine hardy bike riders were to arrive, dry out, get a drink and prepare to sit down for 12 noon.

With thirty-four people seated **Mike C** welcomed everyone and outlined the programme reminding us that coins were required for the raffle and the staff gratuities. **Mike M** said the cyclists' grace and lunch began!



John F had made the proceedings entertaining by putting on a large screen show of his photographs, taken on many bike rides. In addition there was a small tablet of revolving photos of riders also taken during rides with the group.

John also placed on each table an A4 sheet of silhouettes of ten riders, a clue being that there were seven men and three women. This kept people guessing for much of the meal. It was whispered to me that Chris's daughter produced the sheet.

John Ferguson

Chris and Sue

A highlight of the proceedings was a beautifully compiled book of coloured photos with an appropriate photo of **jelly babies** on the reverse cover, which was presented by **Mike C** to **Chris and Sue**. They were delighted by the gesture.



Glennys presented two Original Buffs, one each to Dave S, who had amazingly donned a Father Christmas outfit, and Bruce, for the minimal piece of glitter he had attached to his bike.



Dave, Glennys and Bruce



Mike Cross

The lunch was very successful. We can't thank John enough for all of his efforts to entertain us and to Mike for organising the event.

Finally, Bob Witton gave a vote of thanks to everyone who had contributed towards the successful gathering.

Glennys

On a final note, the raffle raised £94 for St John's Hospice. Only £35 was collected for the staff which we thought was a bit stingy.

Bob Witton

