

Wednesday Riders Traditional Christmas Lunch

Trafford Hall - 14th December 2016

As he does each year, Mike Cross, President of the Club, organised a superb outing for Wednesday Riders members for their annual pre-Christmas get together at Trafford Hall. Sixteen riders came to the lunch on their bikes, several being decorated for Christmas with tinsel and lights, and thirty-seven sat down for a superb Christmas meal of three courses plus refreshments on arrival, a hot mince pie and coffee to finish. The bar was open for alcoholic refreshments. Trafford Hall ballroom and tables had been 'dressed to kill', beautifully decorated and very welcoming.

Mike welcomed everyone after which '*A Cyclist's Grace*' was eloquently read by Mike Maxwell. We discovered that Mike Cross had composed it for another cycling occasion - he's full of surprises!

After lunch Charlie Evans was presented with a prize of a bottle of Bells Whisky donated by Brian Lowe, for the best decorated bike and rider. I have to apologise to Margaret Smith and Chris Byrne who had also decorated their helmets. All three really deserved a prize each for their efforts.

The raffle was organised by John Ferguson for Claire House Hospice and raised £87. Brian Lowe was surprised but pleased to be presented by Mike with an album of photos of himself and the Wednesday Riders for all the work he has done as both Rides Secretary and Membership Secretary over the years. Chris Smith will be taking over next year as Rides Secretary and Liz Donaldson as Membership Secretary.

Roy Bunnell collected gratuities for the excellent staff who made and served the lunch. Roy made a second collection at the lunch from those who use the Tudor Rose car park. When added to money already donated by riders at the Eureka the grand total was £181. Roy presented the money to the Tudor Rose manager who will be donating it to a local charity.

Riders were so anxious to get going after the lunch before it got dark, Bob Witton was unable to give the valediction. We have to apologise to Bob for this omission.

All in all the event was successful on every count and was an opportunity to catch up on news with friends not seen very often. Thank you to Mike Cross for organising the event, to other members who contributed to its success and to Trafford Hall staff for serving us so well.

Glennys Hammond.

A Cyclists Grace

FOR

The bicycle
and the freedom and companionship it gives us;

FOR

The health and strength
To cycle in the countryside around us;

FOR

Our food and wine
and the good fellowship around us;

FOR

These and all the gifts You bring us,
We thank you LORD