

## Christmas ride to Teddington Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The morning of our Christmas ride dawned on a dull overcast day but all were in excellent spirits at the prospect of the ride out to Teddington for Festive Fare at The Anglers public house.

In anticipation of a large turn-out for this “must-attend” event, your Convenor arranged for riders to go out in three groups, by different routes.

Denise and John took their group to Mortlake on the train and then along the Thames Path, the shortest of the rides, and so they enjoyed the longest coffee break!

Mary and Andrew headed out from Brockwell Lido, across Clapham and Wandsworth Commons, Wimbledon Park and Princes Way (with a short steep climb to raise the pulse rate), then Tippet’s Corner and Roehampton to Richmond Park, and across Ham Common.

Niesje and John followed a similar route across the Commons but then headed up West Hill to join the cycle path beside the A3 to Tippet’s Corner, avoiding the climb up Princes Way.

Crossing Richmond Park, this group paused at the top of the hill to admire the elegance of the Royal Ballet School lower school, which is housed in White Lodge.



A Grade 1 Georgian house, the house was originally a hunting lodge named Stone Lodge, built for George II and subsequently gifted to Sir Robert Walpole. Directly opposite the entrance was the wide avenue with a view down towards the Richmond Gate.

By good fortune -- or planning -- the three groups all arrived at the pub at the appointed time to find that the staff at The Anglers had prepared the room for us; the mulled wine was simmering on the stove and the mince pies were warming. Jay, Ben and their staff were there to serve food and drinks.



We were delighted to find that Peter had been able to get to the venue, accompanied by Isobel, his helper. He and Niesje are here deep in conversation.

For the benefit of newer members, a little bit of background to the group and its first Convenor.

In 2014 at the suggestion of Angela Brown, a former chairman of D & D u3a, Peter was invited to convene the group.

Peter took up the challenge and proceeded to lead us on many an interesting ride over the next seven years.

Benefiting from his knowledge of west London, we were able to enjoy many rides to Bushy Park, Richmond Park, Chiswick, Hampton Court, Ham House and Osterley, to name just a few. It was Peter who gave us the byname for the group – “the chattering cyclists”!

This outing was the largest ever organised, with 22 of us completing the ride to Teddington for this festive event.

#### **Riders and diners**

*Andrew, Chris. Daniela, David, Denise, Dilwen, Felicity, Gisela, Jan, Jane An. Jane A. Jane E, Joe, John C, John, Judy, Julia, Julie, Mary, Niesje, Peter & Isobel, Tony, Valerie.*

*Report by: John Clements*

*Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

