



To Everyone at Wheel Easy - Seasons Greetings and here's hoping for more cycling in 2012. Malcolm, Gia, Martin W and the Wheel Easy Committee.

Poddlers Ride Report

9 poddlers escaped the Christmas shopping and set out on a relatively easy local route never venturing far from Harrogate. Gentleman poddlers outnumbered ladies by 2 to 1 today, possibly something to do ladies being busy preparing for the festive season according to my good lady, I couldn't possibly comment! We set off through Harrogate and down the Luchon Way cycle path to Coppice then up to Penny Pot Camp via the less steep Jennyfield/Ethelburgers route. Down Burley Bank Road and across the A59, where Alison found her front gear shift stuck with the chain on the big cog. Steve managed to free the works and we were on our way cutting down West Lane and popping out above Hampsthwaite. Steve arrived at the end of Lund lane with a flat tyre and pumped it up optimistically hoping that was just a slow puncture. We circumnavigated Killinghall via Crag Lane and head up the A61 to Ripley roundabout, where Steve's optimism and front tyre deflated and he and Max waved the group on whilst they replaced the tube. Right towards Knaresborough and then a halt at the Nidd turning for a banana break and to give Max and Steve time to catch up and me a chance to prune a handy holly bush and attach a few sprigs to my pannier rack. Max observed that most folk carried with them puncture repair kits rather than puncture causing kits. Dennis headed for home on his gleaming blue new bike that Santa had brought him early and Alison keeping him company along the way. Steve and Max joined us and we had but travelled a few yards when Sur John punctured and for once found himself repairing his own tyre rather than a fellow poddler's. Caroline, who had to keep a lunch appointment, went ahead of the group along the planned loop via Nidd. Puncture mended we carried

on via Nidd and through Scotton and Scriven. Caroline must have been flying as we were not able to catch her up. Steven headed home in Knaresborough, and the remaining 5 headed down Bond End and returned to Harrogate. Good company and the weather stayed dry with even the occasional patch of blue sky. 7 x 23 miles, 2 x 20 miles approx. Dave Griffin

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

We were short in numbers as we set off to Wheel Easy Headquarters in Hampsthwaite. All recent Wheel Easy rides seem to end at Sophie's! How will we all cope when the cafe is closed over the holiday period?

Once again it was a lovely Wheel Easy ride. Martin set the pace and the group of four followed. We cycled up Brackenthwaite Lane, turned right towards Beckwithshaw and then on towards Fewston. Crossing the A59 we turned right along one of my favourite stretches. As it was a clear morning the views were stunning. At Hampsthwaite we were joined by Malcolm who had set off later but followed the same route. After refreshment we returned home via a series of cycle paths through the Jenny Fields, past the Claro Beagle, through the Coppice's and eventually home. 26 miles. Paul

Dave chose the destination and forced the pace! I chose the extra hills exploratory (currently reading Darley Remembered) way to Yorke's Folly and the reward of Christmas pudd at Pateley Mart (and xmas shopping). Then mince pie at Stifs while Dave considered fat tired bikes, obviously to help me. So bridle paths to Willies Wood and over the Nidd above Ross Bridge. 2 x 40 and not quite back for 1pm . Richard

EG's Ride Report

The shortest day of the year, dull and initially a bit raw, however we had eleven EG`s at Low Bridge. Dave P, Dave W, Dave S, Eric, John E, John R, Norman, Peter B, Peter J, Terry and Theo. Bill had sent his apologies, not because of the lack of daylight hours, but because of an elbow strain from lopping off branches with shears, he will also be spending Christmas and the New Year in the South of England. We hope he has a speedy recovery from both experiences. Before things could get underway Peter B punctured (piece of glass), Norman gave him a hand, which became quite grubby, Norman then asked for something to clean his hands with he was given an item of gentleman's underwear with instructions not to get them the said item to dirty as PB would be wearing them later this week (see photo). The veterans eleven then set out for Taddy via Little Ribston, Cowthorpe, Rudgate and Wighill, here we saw examples of the blistering acceleration of the two Daves, W & S, otherwise known as the Kinesis Kids on their ally Litespeeds (see photo). In Tykes Tadcaster Tearooms, toasted teacakes and tea were taken, however Eric and Dave P, to their shame forgot they were carrying hip flasks with Whisky and Brandy. The return route was via Bramham, here John R, Norman and Terry left the party to return via the cycle path to Wetherby to get home for 2-00pm. The remainder continued along the old Roman Road then turning to Collingham and Linton then in to Wetherby and of course Morrisons, it was here at 1-45pm that we found Norman & Terry taking afternoon tea, home for 2-00pm no chance, more tea and chat ensued and time crept on, eventually Norman rang home to say he would be late due to some EG forcing good Scotch whisky down his throat (Dave P?). The cafe was busy with cyclists including Anne and Keith Benton from York Section CTC. The route back was on the B6164 to Knaresborough for some with the Harrogate group turning off at Little Ribston. A nice Winters ride with Autumn like conditions, its now going to get lighter but will it get colder? no holding breath. Mileage 7 x say 45 = 315 miles. 3 x say 40 miles 120 miles. Merry Christmas to all Wheel Easy and all other cyclists. Dave P.

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1002 YTD 171461



