

Sunday, January 12, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 402

Walk Report

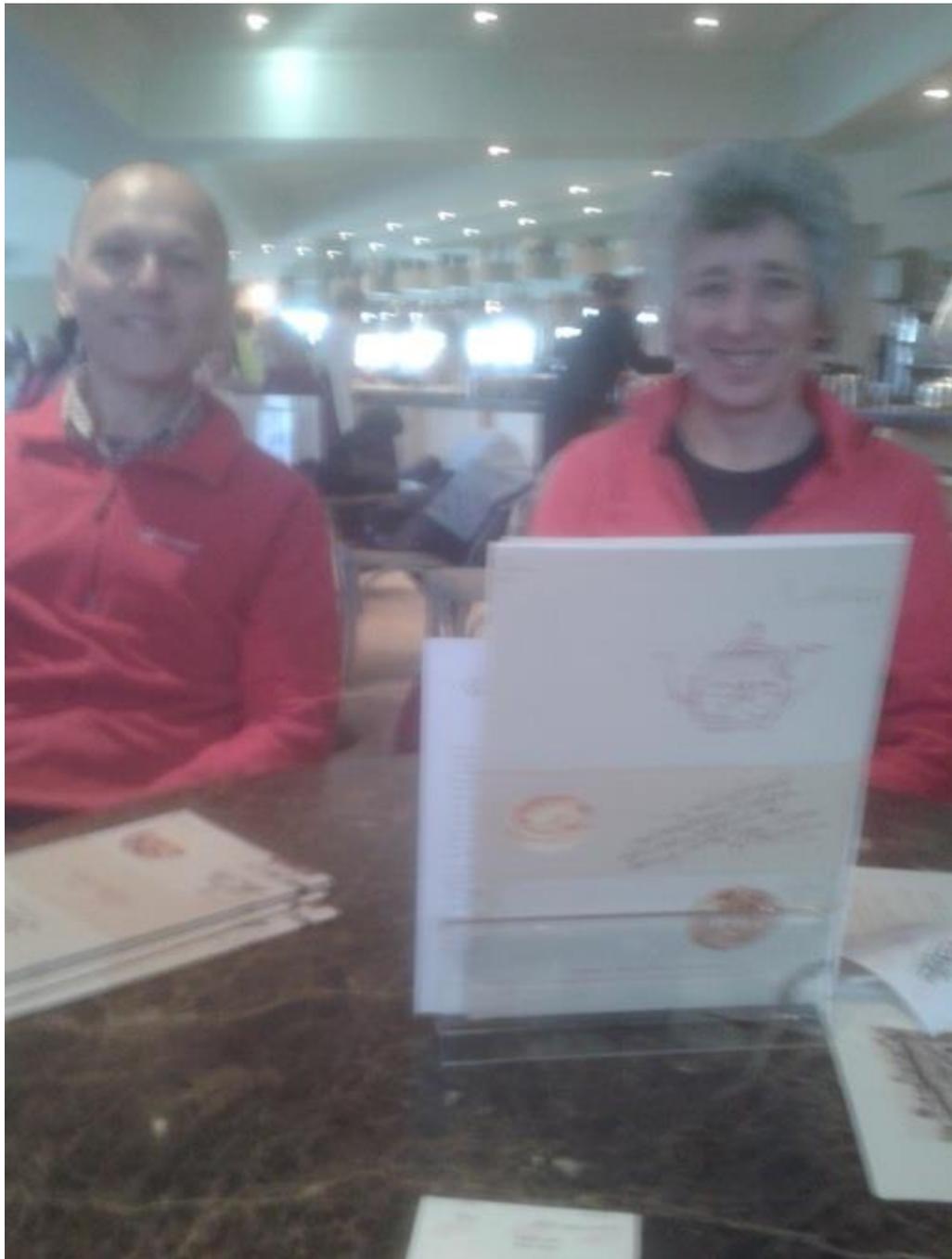
'Twas icy and thirteen walkers did slide and stumble up Leadhall Lane. Actually, the going was relatively easy though the potholes appeared to be ice-filled. We turned into Rossett Park Road and there encountered Malcolm performing wheelies on his new found bike. However, he quickly abandoned his mean machine and joined in the progress to Whinney Lane when Caroline announced the "Sue CoutureWay". As we looked into the distance, the chiaroscuro effect of sunlight between cloud and mist caused Richard to declare that Leeds was on fire! The "Sue Couture Way" is negotiated via stiles and care had to be taken to avoid icy planks – surely this was the reason for abandoning the pedals and yet here we were dicing with danger! All was well and we reached the tar Macadam on Lady Lane and thence via Cardale past the magnificent Police offices. The pace was quickening rather suspiciously as we crossed into Crag Lane led at a trot by Messrs Margolis and Pugh who dived straight into Bettys! A group of cyclists was just leaving and were congratulated by Gia for their fortitude and resilience. At this point, we did spare a thought for our W E compatriots as you pedalled up hill and down dale. Great was the consumption of Bettys wares including a Fat Rascal – so very Harrogatian! Malcom and Gia stayed behind to shop. Hopefully, there were still goods on the shelves as Caroline informed that she had done all her next Christmas shopping in the sale there. Let's hope Max likes his Emma Bridgewater reduced mug. The remaining dozen walked on through the Pine Woods and Valley Gardens where we took a tour of the wood carvings in the New Zealand area and Debbie found a suitable seat sporting a Hedwig owl. We split at the confluence of paths across West Park Stray with the Pughs and Grahams heading to their town centre abodes and the rest of us for the joys of Hornbeam and "much favoured south side..." This was a very pleasant morning – thank you.

Sue

D









Unofficial Ride Report

A large group of Wheeeasy members gathered at Hornbeam Park on a very cold and foggy morning. Some were kitted out for walking and others were ready to ride. After a quick consultation it was, quite rightly, announced that no Official rides would take place today and anyone wanting to ride needed to be get together and agree a route with the emphasis on safety. The poddlers were quickly organized and set off for Borough bridge whilst the remaining gaggle of riders tried to decide whether to ride and, if so where? Finally 7 set off on a ride to Wetherby where a re-assessment would be made as to whether to carry on. Through the Showground and up to Rudding and then through Follifoot and the sun breaks through and gives some wonderful colours with the hoar frost in the fields and trees. On the road to Spofforth another member joined in to increase the peloton as we made our way down the Wetherby cycle path which was a pretty good surface. Arriving in Wtherby it was clear we would carry on but the debate was whether an early coffee or push on. Much deliberation and prevarication before James, a Leader in waiting, stepped in a

proposed route via the Cycle paths to Boston Spa and Thorp Arch and the back to Wetherby for coffee. A brilliant compromise and everyone was happy to carry on our way. The weather was cold and feet and fingers were beginning to feel it when we completed our loop and arrived at the North Street Deli for a warming break. After warming up and the usual excellent refreshments it was agreed to make our way back via Little Ribston and Knaresborough to assist James and Jill on their return to home. However, we made a fast start and on arriving in Little Ribston realized that James and Jill were not with us and after a short time Jill caught up and said the James had had a broken chain and had rung the PAC (Partner And Car) to pick him up. We all felt terrible, especially as Colin had the tools to fix it (sorry James) but we set off homeward with reduced numbers. In Knaresborough we went along a busy Waterside and then Jo and Geraldine went up Knaresborough Hill homeward and the rest made our way up the Beryl Burton and then across the Stray home. It was a cold but enjoyable ride in good company (I hope James forgives us!) and was, in the end, a reasonable decision to go riding if you had the gear to keep warm. 32 CHILLY miles. Sue & Kevin



A Medium Ride Report

Four stout riders, good and true, well protected from the elements, as the photos reveal, departed Hornbeam in the bitter conditions and headed for Boroughbridge. Lots of World problems were aired, some solved, some cached for next weekend's debate. Great bacon butties and beans on toast at Tasty Snacks, then home again. Not a record breaking event, but we enjoyed it. Thanks to Tony, Terry B, and Roger for a pleasant couple of hours. Dave S.





Another Medium Ride Report

Due to icy conditions route was revised to Boroughbridge via Knaresborough returning through Bishop Monkton, Markington and Ripley. Approximately 25 miles and 13 riders some of which returned with very cold toes! Allison S

Leaderless Long Ride Report

It was decided to cancel all led rides today, but having made the effort to get to Hornbeam it was decided to do a curtailed long ride. There were only three riders who participated in the long ride. Initially it was decided to ride to Ripon along the A61. Unfortunately on leaving Harrogate Phil S suffered a puncture. Having repaired the puncture the Ride Committee decided not to go Ripon but go to Stump Cross instead. So we set off to Hampsthwaite and then to Clapham Green. About two miles after crossing the Dacre/Summerbridge road we were engulfed in a fog bank with practically nil visibility. The Safety Committee decided it was too risky to continue so it

was about-turn and back to the cross roads adjacent to Menwith Hill. Given the bright sunshine to the south it was decided to head to Otley, which we managed to reach without any diversions. After refreshments at Dunny's the Ride Committee decided to return to Harrogate via Pool, Castley, Kirkby Overblow and Rudding Park. At just under 40 miles this must be the shortest long ride on record. Peter J



Coffee stop at Dunny's, Otley. Yes, that's right, roast beef dinner, £2.80, including Yorkshire pud, peas and chips!