

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Wanderers' Ride

Fourteen Wanderers set off from Hornbeam for the, as advertised, "uncomplicated" meander along the Greenway to Ripley, destination Fountains for coffee. It was a very pleasant winter's day with the only stressor being to arrive on time for our Christmas lunch at Ripon Spa.

The ride down through Studley was beautiful, complete with a large herd of deer, well camouflaged in the winter shadows and we arrived punctually for an excellent lunch. Judging by all the noise and laughter, everyone was in great spirits and a few in festive attire. All too soon we had to drag our, now somewhat heavier, bodies out of the cafe and head briskly back to Hornbeam in the fading light. All lights were on and we made a very attractive little snake, moving happily along the Greenway, glow worm style. A very good day!  
Helen and Keith T









### **Wednesday Ride**

For the first time this year a ride was organised to start and finish at the Xmas Lunch venue – with the benefit of then not having to ride back in the dark after a hearty lunch! Colin and Kevin had planned a route and as they set off from Harrogate it was clear that we were riding into the fog- and it looked to be a good day in Harrogate!

However, seven riders arrived at the start and we set off towards Galphay and a foggy climb. Things didn't get any better as we headed to Kirkby Malzeard and so we spurned the climb up to the Moor and headed for coffee at the Grewlethorpe Community cafe.

When we arrived the building was open but it was empty and no one could be found – it certainly wasn't open! So it was decided to head back to Ripon for coffee. As we made our way back the fog began to clear but as we were on a time limit we carried on and (some) settled into Booths for coffee before the festivities began. Only a short ride, but at least we got some exercise before an excellent lunch and, of course, we didn't have to ride back in the dark on a full stomach. It was a worthwhile experiment that we will perhaps try again next year? Thanks for those who came along. Kevin D





### **Long Ride**

Eight riders turned out for the Long Ride, of these four were heading for the Christmas Dinner at Spa Gardens. So we embarked on a circuitous route that would eventually take us to Ripon. Initially we set off for Beckwithshaw, then onto Hampsthwaite, via West Lane, and up to Clapham Green. A small loop was introduced by going down Stock Stile Lane and up Emmet Lane to join Back Lane. Reaching the Mentwith Hill crossroads the ride group split up with the Christmas Dinner group going to Darley down Sheepecote Lane. At Darley we started to make our way back towards Harrogate, we crossed the toll bridge to eventually arrive at Burnt Yates where we turned right to Shaw Mills, then up Mill Bank to Bishop Thornton. From here we proceeded to Markington but turned left to head back to Fountains. A difficult bit of riding as the hedges had recently been cut and the road was strewn with pieces of hawthorn. After a quick dash through the Deer Park we arrived at Spa Gardens just after 12 o'clock. After such a relatively short but hilly ride the Christmas Dinner was much appreciated. PCJ





### **EGs' Ride**

Our Annual Christmas Lunch from an EG`s observations, get it in to print before he forgets, anyway this is what he remembers (nothing to do with Sloe Gin).

Ten or Eleven riders at Low Bridge, a big welcome back to Rob and Nicola after their tour round their US of A. Once again wonder wheels Siswick took the men`s downhill to Occaney.

At Boroughbridge Norman took his leave of us for a date with a hot chick in the Tasty Snacks Cafe, then five of us headed for Ripon via Marton-le-Moor, Marrow Flatts Farm and Sharow.

Five riders I hear you say, what happened to the others, you tell me, answers on a postcard.

But all`s well that ends well and we made contact with them later.

In Spa Cafe it was very much the Christmas spirit, with decorations, crackers (yes we are), there was punch for all, wine on the table, Sloe Gin under the table (well that`s where I would have been if I had succumbed to my base desires).

It was an excellent meal, and just as important excellent company (well we are Wheel Easy), many thanks to the organisers, especially as some of us older members don't know if we are on this Earth or Fullers, herding cats could be easier.

The ride back to Knaresborough and Harrogate was Sloer than the ride out (pun intended), however those who finished on Christmas Pud, managed to keep up with those partook of the more "dainty" puds. Look out for lots of photos.

To sum up an excellent lunch, meeting with old friends, all to get us in a festive mood.

We are told we are now in the season of goodwill, let us all hope that some of that goodwill spreads to some other parts of the world. Dave P





