

Sunday, December 9, 2007

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 84



Christmas started on Sunday for Wheel Easy! with our first group ride to the annual Cyclist's Carol Service at the Church of the Epiphany in Tockwith. The previous day's prolonged downpour and forecasts of more rain and gales may have put some regular cyclists off risking an outing on Sunday, but the morning's unexpected blue skies proved in the event to herald a perfect winter day for the 15 who gathered at Hornbeam Park.

Rather than break up into smaller groups as usual, we set off together towards Knaresborough, along Forest Moor Road where the writer managed to take a tumble by colliding with the kerb. At Knaresborough the main damage was found to be a bloody knee. Fortunately one of the members is a professional nurse who applied instant first aid and after a short delay the group continued to Farnham.

Here three riders with limited time went their separate way, while the rest carried on to Arkendale, then over the A1 to Great Ouseburn and into Whixley. At this point there was a discussion about distance. Several cyclists recalled Martin saying at the start that the ride to Tockwith would be around 15 miles, and noted that our speedo's had already gone over 20 miles, with Tockwith nowhere in sight. Martin seemed to think that 15 or 25 miles was just splitting hairs, which on such a fine day was probably true. Finally we arrived in Tockwith, and joined scores of other cyclists from all over Yorkshire for an excellent lunch in the Village Hall, organised as every year by members of the local Mothers and Toddlers Group.

Some then returned straight back to Harrogate, while others remained for the Carol Service and then cycled back on the same route, through Cowthorpe, Spofforth and finally Pannal. In all not far short of 40, mostly very easy, miles.

Next week's rides are followed by the Wheel Easy! Christmas lunch party at Harrogate Hockey Club. MM

