

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

## Wednesday Rides

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This morning it was cold with patchy freezing fog. I cycled up the street but then returned home. Surely not weather to cycle in? I decided I would go for a walk but I knew the braver Wheel Easy members would be out. Well done everyone who ventured out!



### EG's Ride

The weather forecast said very cold, it was, and misty, it was, and bright sun later, well not really. However on Harlow Hill the sun tried to make the effort, but failed as the decent to Low Bridge was made in mist. At Hookstone car park around half a dozen Poddlers could be seen waiting for the off. We had five EG's in the cold and damp at Low Bridge, Bob, Dave P, Dave S, Dave W and Peter B. Morrisons Cafe at Wetherby seemed a good idea (opposite direction to last Wednesday). In order to avoid the busy B6164 as much as possible, the route was up Thistle Hill, on the old disused road, then on to Follifoot and Spofforth. Norman was met on the way in to Wetherby and

three Poddlers were met coming out of Wetherby, and further on three more Poddlers were seen coming off the Harland Way (think Joe was one of them?) and into the small Bistro cafe. The now six EG's shivered into Morrisons to get around a hot drink, despite being well kitted out nobody had got a boil on, and the pace was not slow. After warmth comes cold as we climbed on to the Sicklinghall ridge, at Kearby we had a photo stop with the non-existent view of Wharfedale behind us. At Spacey Houses Bob and Dave P were entertained (or worried) by the sight of a large Red Kite diving very close to us. We know they only eat dead animals, but how healthy were we? did they know something that we did not?. A good short ride considering the forecast and the actual weather, around 27 miles max, and the mist had lifted (on Harlow Hill only) at around 1-00pm. Dave P



### **Poddlers Ride**

Let me make this clear: it was cold, very cold, cold as a frog in an ice-bound pool even, but strangely, 7 people (excluding Geraldine and me) decided it wasn't too cold to poddle. James was

the first to arrive and he reported that the cycle path from Knaresborough was not covered in black ice or shrouded in mist and fog. James is better than a barometer: he provides a first-hand account of the actual conditions on the roads and cycle paths, as he has to cycle to Hornbeam from Knaresborough. He did report that it was cold, however. We decided to avoid main roads wherever possible, and opted for Wetherby via the Showground, Rudding, Follifoot, Spofforth. Surprisingly, the road through the Showground was very well gritted, as was most of the route. There were loads of frozen puddles and lovely hoar frost on the trees, but the roads did not seem to be slippery. We took the Harland Way into Wetherby as we figured that it was far too cold for mud. It wasn't too cold for a puncture, though, which Dave had on Harland Way. Front wheel, so not too bad. The bulk of the group wisely didn't hang around watching and carried on to the North Street Deli in Wetherby while James and I stood and watched while Dave fixed his puncture. Surprisingly, we were quite sheltered in the old railway cutting. Good value coffee, flapjack and bacon-and-egg sarnie, and then back through Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston and on to Knaresborough. We turned left along the riverside and James carried straight on home. By the time we got home, my feet were positively painful, and the orange squash in my bottle had frozen almost solid. About 20 (very cold) miles.





### **Terry's Ride**

Speaking only for myself, cycling through freezing fog, or its near cousin, is not my idea of fun. Today's ride, therefore, began not at 9.30 at Hornbeam but 10.30 from home under the assumption that the sun would be out and shooing away the mist/ fog even if it wasn't raising the temperature above zero. It was a solo ride with the aim of visiting a new community cafe in Boston Spa to check its potential as a coffee stop for Wheel Easy rides in that direction. The Wise Owl cafe for the community opened last week and operates in the Village Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10.00 'til 4.00. (see [www.w-ise.org.uk](http://www.w-ise.org.uk)). It's run by volunteers who offer a small range of soup, sandwiches and cakes, mostly homemade at very reasonable price. But there's no all-day breakfast. The person in charge is a keen cyclist and welcomes fellow wheelers. I think the cafe does fill a gap in Boston Spa's attractions, so do drop by when you can. The strategy for dealing with the day's freezing mist/fog? Partial success only! Terry Smith