

Wednesday, December 31, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers er...Ride

Despite a weather forecast indicating warmth, and certainly no frost or ice, this mornings roads were covered with frost and ice at 7, 8 and not showing any signs of melting at 9. So plan B was swiftly put into action and a select minority rolled up at Hornbeam at 9.30 ready to walk. Some very hardy sturdy stalwarts turned up with very hardy sturdy bikes, all quite determined to cycle. Angela turned up looking for somewhere to go and have a coffee, and then return home as no skinny wheeled people seemed to be braving the weather. Terry skidded to a halt and emerged from his car with the most delightful pair of lovely warm cycling over shoes you could imagine. Two very nice young men arrived, raring to get going before they froze.....their first Wheel Easy outing. So four walkers left seven riders with their instructions and set off round the Pannal Ash, Harlow Carr, Valley Gardens Planning Department Trail, with our in house guide Richard Pugh. We quickly dashed round and finished the seven mile gallop with a coffee in the Palm Court Café, and a brief chat with three generations of Margolis and a quick guided tour of the Prevention of Public Rights of Way at the Church at Belvedere corner. Thank you all who walked...I'd have returned to my washing and not walked had you stayed in bed. An a very Happy New year to all. CG

EGs Ride

The E.G's are a hardy bunch. Minus 2 deg C didn't seem to deter their enthusiasm. Eight members gathered @ Low Bridge, including Dave S wearing his new (Christmas) helmet and Norman with his bike festooned in Xmas lights.

After gingerly negotiating the frost covered Abbey Road, we reassembled at Morrisons, Wetherby, to assess the status of the weather. Bob, Norman & Dave S. had to abandon us at this point, with Dave S. needing to set off to celebrate the New Year in with friends in the Lake District.

Our deputy leader had planned his customary "meandering" route which headed towards Linton & Collingham. The remaining five stalwarts climbed upwards amazingly above the snow line through Bardsey, pass the famous Bingley Arms and onwards to Scarcroft & Thorner, guided by Terry S. who was on his "local patch" (Thanks Terry)

Peter B. was struggling with errant gears on the upward slopes but persevered to accompany us through Bramham, visiting some of the lesser known backwater streets and then heading back towards Clifford and Boston Spa for lunch, Peter B left us at this point to prepare for the impending celebrations with a friend in Pocklington.

The weather had remained kind to us and albeit very cold at times, particularly where the sun couldn't reach, it remained dry and windless!

Following lunch our heading took us back through Walton, Tockwith, Cattal and Hunsingore.

Approaching Walshford some confusion ensued when Terry C inadvertently caught the rear of Peter J's bike when preparing to enter the cycle path! Minor damage to both machines but easily remedied and onwards we continued.

Both Terry S. & Terry C. peeled off @ Little Ribston whilst Peter J. & myself (Dave W.) continued to Knaresborough, arriving at a sensible 3.10pm well before lighting up time.

For the last ride of the year it turned out to be a great ride & for some into territories new, including myself. Enough hills to add to the variety, taken upwards to avoid potential problems if there was ice, which there was and a gentle flat course for the return journey. Probably 45 miles for the majority of the "hardy bunch".

A Very Happy New Year to all E.G's and may those currently temporarily laid-up with injuries or illnesses, make a speedy recovery. We look forward to all of you rejoining us in 2015. -----

- Dave Watson

