

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

It had snowed, as forecast, so it was with some foreboding that we set off for Hornbeam. The small roads and the paths across the Stray were covered and not too slippery, but the side roads that had had a few cars along them were decidedly hazardous. Main roads were clear. When we arrived at Hornbeam, there was one hardy soul on a bike and Caroline on foot. Then I noticed that, in her anxiety about the planned ride, Geraldine had put on her headband but not her helmet. Liz and Richard Pugh turned up on foot with walking poles and boots, and then James on his mountain bike from Knaresborough, trying out his new knee for the second time. The ride leader announced that he had chickened out of the ride, leaving the two intrepid riders to head off towards Ridding, Follifoot and Spofforth. I hope they got back safely.... CPS.

Well a dusting of snow and extremely slippery roads had kept all except the extremely hardy, in bed this morning. James and Alan looked raring to go as they waited in the Hornbeam Car Park, Caroline, Liz and Richard looked as if a quick stroll somewhere was on the cards and Joe and Geraldine (cunningly minus bike helmet, thus not able to ride anywhere) ready to lead themselves straight back home. So that seemed to be the order of the day and thus it continued as the sun came out and some of the snow and ice melted ready for more overnight freezing. A very slippery slide of a walk taking in some superb views, to Harlow Carr for three. Excellent. CG



### EG's Ride

Falling snow at & 7.30am in the morning doesn't encourage one to go out for a bike ride. However the forecast was for fine conditions so off I set. The leadout road was white over but rideable and thereafter the route towards our usual meeting point was o.k. Not surprisingly though, Abbey Rd. was like cycling along a slack tightrope and my initial trepidation was confirmed.

Arriving safely at Low Bridge I was pleased to see at least 2 other brave E.G's (Dave S & Ian) ready to venture out into the snowy wastes. Dave P(2) had apparently arrived earlier but had to shoot off to collect his cycling jacket and thus missed finally joining us. Peter B. was spotted gingerly making his way along "Waterside" towards us, Eric, as usual arrived in a plume of spray virtually at the last minute, but just as we were about to set off, Dan joined us. So we were Six riders in all and we headed for Morrison's @ Wetherby via Thistle Hill and the bypass, to assess the weather conditions and have our first coffee break. From here we continued south, stopping off to check on Eric's daughter's broken down car, parked up overnight (long story - ask Eric), aiming for Boston Spa & Bramham. A brief halt at

the elderly residents shelter for a photo shoot and then up the hill and along the tops to Tadcaster.

The sun was now shining brightly, encouraging us to continue on our way. As it was still too early for our lunch break we took the road north, towards Whixley. With the wind on our backs we made goodtime and was able to call in at Tancred Hall Farm shop for our second refuelling stop. A special Butternut Squash & Apple soup was on the menu for three of us, but as is normal Dan plumped for a two course lunch with all the usual trimmings.

It was now a fairly easy ride to return home via Great Ousebourne, dropping off Ian, our recent new member, at his home in Ferrensby.

The remaining five arrived in Knaresborough just after 3.00pm after completing approx. 45 miles although it is believed Eric may have covered up to 52 miles, an excellent for a mid January ride. :- Dave Watson.

