

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers' Ride**

After conquering the technicalities of modern-day cameras, last week's photograph is attached below.



### **Wednesday Wanderers' Ride**

A small group of Wanderers set off in grey, drizzly conditions. By the time we were heading out along the Greenway it was brightening up and by Ripley there were patches of blue sky. Up to the Drovers crossroads and towards Fountains Abbey. Alison left us to head home through Markington. At the visitor centre we decided that we had plenty of time for coffee and met up with the other Wednesday riders. By the time we left to head for Ripon, the sun was shining. We followed Gia's group into Studley Park where she led us on a guided tour of the deer park before continuing down into Ripon for our Christmas lunch.

Feeling well replete after a splendid lunch we set off to return via Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton. Instead of continuing with Gia's group we turned off via Burton Leonard and over the footbridge in the Mount Garrett estate and on to Nidd and Ripley. By the time we arrived back in Harrogate it was just starting to go dark but we were all well equipped with lights.

A very pleasant day with good company and an excellent lunch. Andrew H

### **Wednesday Ride**

As it was such a mild day and fairly certain that we would not get a soaking several met at Hornbeam to cycle to Ripon to the annual Christmas lunch at Spa Gardens café. Layers soon came off as we rode up out towards the Drovers and in to the visitor centre at Fountains. The day had become perfect for a bike ride, clearing skies, some sunshine and very mild. Leaving the visitor centre three groups rode through the park to the old magnificent stables and had a good view of a fine collection of deer. We carried on hoping to find an exit to the Pateley Road but the gates were locked so we retraced our steps and cycled down through the deer park where we had fab views of the cathedral glowing in the sunshine.

After lunch we cycled back in good weather, together with Malcolm who had taken his Brommie on the bus and joined the walkers for the outward journey. Thanks to fellow cyclists James, Jill, Paul and Charlie for a bonus Wednesday ride. Gia

### **Wheel Easy Christmas Dinner Photographs**















### **EGs' Ride**

Not a bad day, in fact better than the forecast and nine riders gathered at Low Bridge in high expectation of Turkey, Christmas Pud and festive frolics. Comprising Colin (road trialling a new steel tourer), Dan (Dan Dan the multi bars man), Dave Peatfield, Dave Preston, Eric (arriving very fast with heavy braking), John R, Peter B, Peter J, and Terry C.

First stop Morrison cafe. At the Occaney downhill challenge, the resident champions being away the money was on anybody, however the honours went to Dan, this again started discussions on physics, theories of relativity and hard sums. In the cafe frugality was the order of the day with only coffee and tea being taken, except for a guilt ridden DP who had a Belgium Bun with his coffee, and also Dan who had a full English with an extra side order of black pudding, without feelings of guilt, well he was not going to have a Christmas Dinner (or so we thought).

Norman who had arrived by car, then proved a real star by transporting our wine to Spa Gardens Cafe, unfortunately he forgot to decant the red to let it breath, and Peter B forgot to fold the table napkins correctly. Those riders who had not managed to order a meal were catered for, including Dan, where he puts it we know, but it don't show, and although not being "Desperate" we are sure he could manage the extra-large size "cow pie" (this might be lost on those under 55 years old). It was an excellent meal, with excellent company and excellent service and a great start to the Festive Season. (Many thanks Paul).

The riders, the walkers and the drivers all departed in good order, though Caroline's Sloe Gin could have effected this. Fortunately nobody attempted to sing, but we do not know what happened on the bus, perhaps Martin insisted on singing "Land of my Fathers" and had to walk the rest of the way home? The pace back for the EG`s was steady away, mostly because of the Turkey, Chrissy Pud and perhaps the "slow" gin.

For some of the older members usually after a ride, the first priority usually is a "cuppa", however today, perhaps for two of those riders it would have been a double shot of Gaviscon over the rocks.

Finally best wishes to Pam Watson and to Dave who could not make it today.

Dave P