

Wheelrights Christmas Ride

12 December 2021

I had joined Wheelrights only the day before the festive ride and went on it with my daughter, Isobel (also a new member), her partner, Chris, and her two children, Adda (7) on his own bike and Miriam (3) on the back of mummy's bike. Adda went as Santa, Miriam as a Christmas tree, Isobel as a snowman, and Chris as a reindeer. I went as Scrooge, ie no costume at all. It was heartening to see 25 to 30 other riders, so many of whom were in fancy dress on such a murky December day. There were a few more Santas, at least one elf, lots of tinsel and flashing lights, a couple of mad hatters along the way, a herd of reindeer joining at Bikeability in Dunvant, and I even spotted Santa Paws on the back of David Judd's bike too.

This is only the beginning of my account of this ride, but the rest of it is being kept for the next Wheelrights Newsletter, due out in the spring. Meanwhile here is Adda's account of the ride.

Barry Norris



My Christmas Ride

So we cycled from home (in Sketty Park) to Blackpill to the Wetlands and then back to Sketty Park. It was a great ride. I enjoyed it because everyone was dressed up and it was somewhere different to cycle to and the furthest I have ever cycled. We think it was 24 miles [Ed: it was.] which is about the same as cycling to school 13 and a bit times, but in one go. Not as hilly as cycling to school though. I score the hills out of 10 and this one was 8. I liked the hills: some were steep but they were all very short and I like getting out of the saddle.



I was riding my new bike with 18 gears, and I don't think I could have done it on my old bike which only had 7 gears. I liked the rocky part where the sea has gone over and put all the rocks there; because my dad and I had mountain bikes we could ride over it, but mum and grandad got off and pushed. I had a little crash right at the start of the ride like Geraint Thomas. I score my crash 5 out of 10, 5 because I didn't draw blood when my bike flipped sideways when I hit the ledge at the side of the path. It was a very muddy ride, at least for me, because I don't have mudguards. Now mum has to buy me some! I want ones like the ones that daddy has.

My baby sister was on the back of mummy's bike on the way out, but on the way back she had a lift with grandma in the car; she was bored because she wasn't riding. She can ride but she is only 3 and her bike doesn't have any gears at all so she definitely wouldn't have managed it. The next day my legs felt like jelly from all those hills, particularly because at the end we had to get up the big hill on the road to home. I score the whole ride 10 out of 10. [Ed: as opposed to the 8/10 which was for the hills.] I would definitely do this again.

Adda Norris Jones (age 7¾)