The Father & Mother Christmas Ride
A Fun Ride on 20 December 2009

First some general notes. Please beware of debris, mud or holes, especially if you are riding in a group and cannot see clearly ahead. PLEASE TAKE CARE. Ensure you have lights, as this ride can last well into the evening.

SANTA SUITS MUST BE WORN (and cycle helmets)
1st MEETING POINT
The Ship at Langstone 10:00 – 10:15am
2nd Meeting point
The Dolphin and Anchor at Chichester (opposite the Cathedral) 11:00 – 11:30am

Turn right from the Ship car park and right onto the Cycle Track and follow this to the car park where you bear left and turn right onto East Street in Havant. Follow this road straight through the traffic lights by the One Stop straight over the roundabout and under the A27 By-Pass through to Emsworth.
Go straight over the Emsworth roundabout and follow the road through Southbourne, Nutbourne, Bosham and on to Fishbourne.

Having passed Barreg cycle shop on the left carry on past the Woolpack pub on the right and as you leave the village turn left on the cycle track under the A27 By-Pass. Follow this road and, as it bears right, turn left to the pedestrian railway crossing. Cross the railway (take care) and follow the road (Westgate) east into Chichester and the Dolphin and Anchor on the left opposite the cathedral.
This is our second meeting point. So go in and order breakfast and a beer – they are expecting us. Please ensure that your bike is well secured.

At 12:30 we will be having a 'photo call' at The Cross. We are expecting a good turn out so spread a little cheer to the Sunday shoppers!

After the photo session and when you are suitably refreshed set off back down Westgate towards the railway crossing, but this time, just before the crossing turn right and head on up the Centurion Way cycle track – please be careful of dog walkers and children! Follow the track for about a mile or two until you come to an area where there are some iron sculptures. At this point fork left till you get to a large metal style.

Negotiate the style and turn left down the road (Hunters Race). At the second right, turn right up West Stoke Road (sign to Wellies). Follow this road and turn/bear left at the T junction.

Go through West Stoke village and on to a sharp left turn. This road goes through a wooded area and as you come out of the wooded area the road gets a bit rubbish, so be careful. At the end of this road you are on the apex of a corner, turn left then right across the road to the Horse and Groom pub. This is one of the 'official' pubs on our route – so ho ho ho on in!

Upon leaving The Horse and Groom turn left on the main road and follow it until the first road on the left. This road leads into West Ashling, turn right at the next junction, and down Down Street, past the large pond and to the Richmond Arms, where the landlord is expecting us.

Once you have had you fill in the Richmond Arms turn left up the hill and follow the road all the way round till the junction with Cheesemans Lane. Cross this staggered junction and head towards Woodmancote. Some may want to stop in the Woodmancote pub, but previous encounters have shown that large numbers easily overwhelm the bar staff.

Past the Woodmancote take the next left and follow the road to Whitechimney Row to the junction in Westbourne. Turn left and straight ahead is the Stags Head, our next ‘official’ pub.

Out of the Stags Head you should head out of Westbourne, past the church, towards Emsworth. At the mini roundabout turn left down New Brighton Road (this road may still be closed, if it is, don’t turn left carry straight on and at the next T junction turn left, this road will eventually take you under the motorway and railway bridges and get you back on route.), at the end of this road turn left again, under the motorway and the railway bridges and carry on this road to the roundabout. At the roundabout turn left down the hill and up the other side until you see the Sussex Brewery on your right. This is the next ‘official’ pub stop.

Leave some capacity for the next stop, it isn’t far, turn left out of the Sussex Brewery back towards Emsworth, bear left up Queen Street and bear right into High Street then turn left down the one way South Street. A few hundred yards on the right is the Coal Exchange. This is the penultimate ‘official’ pub stop.

You probably need your lights by now – head back up to the High Street and turn left, at the roundabout turn left again out of Emsworth and towards Havant. Cross the road where the cycle-path ends and go under the motorway by way of the underpass. At the junction turn right and carry straight on through the traffic lights to Havant. Immediately after the hump back bridge turn right and head on down the hill and onto the Hayling Billy cycle track. At the end of the track turn left onto the main road and head towards The Ship.

This is the last ‘official’ pub of the day, so enjoy your final beer of the day!

Merry Christmas