

Pick & Mix – Sunday 4th March 2018

Well, the weather really got the better of us this time !!!

For the whole week preceding the event, the 'BEAST FROM THE EAST' weather system threw everything it could over the whole country. We had overnight lows of -9°C around here and a few days when the daytime temperature didn't get above -1°C. High winds drifted the copious amounts of snow up to tops of the hedges and roads were completely blocked.

We kept in constant touch with the groundsman at the school HQ. On Thursday 1st, he indicated that the playground was like an ice rink. This is where we would be parking the cars and he was unhappy about the risk factor. Then it snowed again and again and again!! By early Saturday morning, he confirmed that we would be unable have vehicular access to the school, therefore no car parking facilities.

On our own behalf, we were meant to go out and about during Saturday 3rd to put up the 'health & safety' signage. The fact that our road was a sheet of ice with packed snow down the middle, deterred us from getting our car out of the garage. We knew that the event could not go ahead without these road crossing signs and route markers, but we just could not take the risk of driving out there.

Thirdly, there was the risk to our volunteer staff and all the entrants in travelling to and from the event. We had no way of knowing what the road conditions would be at 05.00 on Sunday morning when some would have had to set out, including us. Even though we only live 2 miles from the HQ, we had to get down a steep hill, park the car and then get the hall sorted and ready on time.

Taking everything into account, at 10.00 Saturday 3rd, we made the difficult decision to cancel the event. The risk factor was just far too great.

HOWEVER, Dave got up at 06.00 Sunday morning planning to walk down to the school to put up a cancellation sign for those few who may have missed the emails. The snow had almost gone !! He still put up the sign but went by car instead. The roads were fully clear.

British weather doing what it does best.

Big thanks to Mike for dealing with the SiEntries email as the first port of call to inform all the walkers. Also to Gill for the prompt upload to the web site and facebook.

Pick & Mix Rescheduled – Sunday 10th June 2018

What a brilliant day. Most people made it for this revised date and everyone had a great time. It was a novelty to see good dry and warm weather for this event and also the fact that no-one had to finish in the dark.

We had 109 complete one loop, stay for a chat and a bite to eat. There were 70 who completed 2 loops and 42 who did 3 loops. The most venturesome 8 of them all completed 4 loops. No-one was timed out and no-one retired although 2 did get a little lost.

The longest distance of the day was 34 miles. In total 109 entrants covered 1,951 miles in 229 loops - Well done to all who took part.

Big thanks to our hard working staff and to the school and the caretaker for their assistance

Dave & Lynn , Mike & Sandra