

Sunday, November 5, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 27



Harrogate Wheel Easy! cyclists will remember this fifth of November, not for Guy Fawkes but for a fine Autumn day, a domestic disaster averted, and a challenging ride back against a stiff westerly breeze. For those who went the full distance, it also included two hours spent in Easingwold at the AGM of the North Yorkshire District Association of the Cyclists Touring Club, of which Wheel Easy! has recently become a member.

Twenty two gathered at Hornbeam Park and 3 more riders joined the fast group at Knaresborough. A small group headed at a gentle pace towards the western extremities of Harrogate, but never quite got there as the ride leader realised she had forgotten to turn off the oven hob which was cooking the Sunday soup! The return ride was achieved at breakneck speed and disaster was averted.

About 14 cyclists led by Crawford and Dennis went east as far as Aldwark toll bridge, and returned via Staveley, a total of some 38 miles. The remainder enjoyed a lovely ride to Easingwold, although one little lost sheep (yours truly) who set off slightly later, added a few extra miles with an unplanned detour which would have been fine if we were aiming for Wetherby.

Even so, determined pedalling saw us all at Easingwold well in time for the AGM where our group was warmly welcomed to the CTC. We also reported on the progress of Wheel Easy! which now has 60 members and over 100 on the mailing list, and on the campaigns we have been involved in to legalise cycling on the Stray, and for the construction of the Sustrans routes on the former railway line to Ripley, and beyond to Ripon and Pateley Bridge.

We returned in separate groups, in each of which slower riders (guess who?) did their best to keep up with their faster (though not necessarily younger) group leaders. The increasingly testing wind meant that by the time we arrived home, after a day of about 50 miles in the saddle, we felt this had been one of the hardest, and therefore most rewarding, Wheel Easy!

rides to date.
MM