

Friday, March 7, 2008

LYNN AND CAROLINE'S BIG BIRTHDAY RIDE ADVENTURE



Caroline had been planning a trip to Ripon, and as Friday was Lynn's Birthday Caroline decided this trip would make for a real treat. Just so you realise what an adventure this was Lynn had only ever done this trip once and that was a distant memory, while Caroline had never covered this sort of distance. So this was a special event in several ways. I offered to keep them company because for once I had a free day, and thought, as always, I should be on my bike when the sun shines.

Setting off via Knaresborough we soon reached Farnham and then headed for Bishop Monkton. There were comments along the lines of "I am not looking forward to this hill on the way back", but the plucky pair pressed on. The first target of reaching Ripon was easily achieved, and Lynn decided that a pair of padded shorts would make all the difference so the first call was at the cycle shop.

We then enjoyed a break at the Sun Parlour café with some hot food that was very welcome, as it had become a bit chilly with a squall of rain passing over and after that it was a steady ride back in the sunshine. The wind was from the side so apart from a few harder sections it didn't cause too much bother and we were back in Harrogate in good time. They covered 32 miles at a very respectable average of 10mph.

On the way back Lynn said, " This is was one of the best Birthdays I have had", and I can't think of a finer recommendation for cycling.

Now that they have been introduced to the delights of the Sun Parlour Café I expect the tarmac to Ripon is going to get worn out quickly. MW

and a few words from Caroline.....

It was absolutely super, and we will be going again with Sue Downes. Martin was a brick and encouraged us all the way. The wind was an enormous help enabling us to tack, sailing ship like, all the way there and back. Knaresborough Road from Starbeck was by far the hardest bit. CG

