

Sunday, November 2, 2008

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 132

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Despite heavy grey clouds and steady drizzle, about 35 cyclists met at Hornbeam including a good number from out of town - Leeds, Silsden, Skipton, Cleckheaton, Summerbridge, Clifford and Spofforth come to mind. The more the better! Perhaps we should start to call ourselves Yorkshire Wheel Easy?

The long ride was making its annual pilgrimage to the North Yorkshire CTC AGM at Easingwold, and around 20 riders headed for this destination along the usual route to Low Bridge at Knaresborough where we regrouped. Half a dozen or so of the faster riders then went on ahead, aiming to enjoy refreshments available at Easingwold and then carry on to Crayke and Sheriff Hutton.

The rest more or less followed our Route 41 to Ouseburn and Aldwark Bridge. Here the toll collector took our photo which includes the bike leaning against the wall. It looks like and probably is a regular old fashioned shopping bike, but he told us that someone had ridden it to Berlin before WW2. We didn't have time for more details, and he had to break off repeatedly for 'business' but would clearly be more than happy to give us the full story if time allowed another day.

We arrived at the AGM around 12.15, a little later than planned, just in time to meet the fast group setting off again after their break. A handful of our group who were involved in the AGM stayed on, but most returned as planned after just a short stay for a drink and cake or sandwich. I was one of those who stayed until the end of the meeting around 2.45pm, and watched the alternating rain and drizzle through the windows of the overheated but dry comfort of the Galtres Centre.

When David, Eric and I started back the rain had almost stopped, but not for long. Eventually, Eric and I were on our own and decided to return through Little Ouseburn, Whixley and the minor lane to Walshford. In the gathering gloom and wet, we were made steady progress through Spofforth and Follifoot to our homes on the south side of Harrogate. Malcolm M

Fifteen riders opted for the medium ride, following the same route as the main group only at a more leisurely pace, as far as the B2625 where we turned off onto the quiet country lanes through Lower Dunsforth and Aldborough. Returning via Minskip and Staveley to Knaresborough and getting home just as the heavy rain was starting. 30 easy miles. Dennis B