

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

## Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

Eleven Poddlers left Hornbeam ably shepherded by Caroline. The first hurdle ie the hairpin bends leading to the main road were undertaken by a variety of means and then we set forth at a cracking pace for the heights of Rossett Green and Drury Lanes to the lowlands of Kirkby Overblow, Barrowby and Sicklinghall. Red kites soared and wheeled (!! ) above us and a kestrel hovered possibly hoping for a dainty morsel from our supplies. No such luck - it's every man/woman for him/herself here.

We reached Station Rd, Wetherby, having discussed the state of the nation and been given two marvellous renditions by Big John - one spoken and one sung. What a star! A banana stop was declared and our leader asked for a show of hands for a coffee stop - 3/11. Crawford put up his hand to ask who was leading next week's ride as Caroline, who very regularly leads, will be away. Having kept his hand up, it was assumed that actually Crawford was volunteering! Thank you, Crawford.

Thence to Spofforth where to the bemusement of a resident or two, Caroline organised a posing and pouting session for the record. Now Trevor is a bit of a male model and demonstrated facial arrangement with what sounded like jaw-breaking success. This will, of course, appear on the website as yet more evidence of the versatility of Wheel Easy members. The home straight is characterised by the gradients of Follifoot and Rudding Lane where disaster was pending - the lights at the bridge were working on our side and not on that of the oncoming drivers. It was a tense moment for Dennis and Crawford as they crossed on their green light only to be confronted by a car whose driver explained his dilemma. All was well and we were truly thankful to have crossed safely to the other side before encountering a doubledecker bus which was hurtling from the opposite direction. Phew! A quick sprint along the Showground Cycle path and home after a glorious ride. Thank you, Caroline. 20 miles Sue D

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report  
 Sunny autumn day saw 14 of us head towards Otley and Cockpit Farm. I am sure I heard someone mention Ilkley but after excellent refreshments no one seemed anxious to head in that direction. Sarah Sedcole led the charge back up the hill at Askwith with Richard, David and Kevin hard on her heels. Malcolm and Mick went back via Castley which was just as well as Mick found his mobile which he had dropped on the outward journey. The rest of us climbed up to the moor at Askwith, admiring the fine dry stonewalling that is nearly complete and enjoying the fabulous views of the day. Martin set off to locate Joe who was inspired to be ahead of the pack whilst the remainder came back via Stainburn Woods and Beckwithshaw. Yet again a great route, good climbs, great views and a warm welcome at Cockpit Farm. Good to welcome three new members today, hope you all enjoyed the ride. About 34 miles for the log! Gia

EG's Ride Report  
 After Tuesday`s wet and windy day it was a pleasant change to meet at Low Bridge in the sun and warmth. Today we had eleven riders including Canadian Mark Cox, to whom we extend a warm welcome, fortunately for Mark being married to a Yorkshire Lass he had no difficulty in understanding the local lingo. Despite the warm and sunny day it was decided to ride close to the A1, just in case the weather turned nasty (well it is November) then we could have some cut off options. The route taken was Wetherby via Kirk Deighton (missing out Morrisons cafe ???) and on to the cycle path to Thorpe Arch trading estate and the Bistro for coffee ( can`t understand why the French call cafe`s after gravy browning ). Ah !. The Cafe offers discount for over 65`s, there was no doubt about some of us being eligible, as confusion reigned over coffee or hot chocolate and the running out of toasted teacakes, to be replaced by toast. After refreshment we often find it hard to get going (mostly still talking) despite the efforts of Dave Watson acting as "whipper in". Then with the sun on our backs it was north on Rudgate to Cattal and Thorpe Underwood and on to Boroughbridge to the top cafe for tea and for some, bacon sandwiches. Here Mark and John Russell left us to return home. After more eating and more talking we eventually left the cafe and headed for Rocliffe, on the way a car drew alongside the driver winding the window down, instead of abuse we got advice "the road ahead is flooded". To the EG`s this was a challenge not a deterrent, besides some of us would probably go "bog snorkelling" for fun, anyway it saves cleaning your bike or getting a bath when you get home. The water hazard was negotiated without anybody falling off, but all refused to do a lap of honour to get the group photo. Then it was into Bishop Monkton, Farnham and Knaresborough, coming into Harrogate the rain started, but it was only light, and we had had a great day in terms of weather ie sunny ,warm and no wind to speak of. Max mileage about 52 for the Harlow Hillbillies, but average for all eleven riders around 48 miles. Dave P

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1268	YTD	131479
------	-------	------	-------	----------	-------	------	-----	--------

