

Monday, June 4, 2012

Jubilee Monday



Shorter Ride

Four of us, Joe, I, Alun and relative newcomer James, whom I had recruited at traffic lights in Knaresborough some weeks ago, did the postponed Sunday ride. A lovely bunting-lined ride through villages towards York was our route, passing the Marston Moor Memorial and as far as Askham Richard. Back via Thorp Arch, coffee stop in Wetherby and home without significant rain. A flat 40 miles. Geraldine

Jubilee Ride Report to Lovely Littondale

What a difference a day makes! Following yesterday's deluge which turned our Sunday rides into Harrogate's very own version of the Jubilee River Pageant, it was amazing to find 17 riders at Hornbeam Park today for the hastily rearranged Jubilee ride to Littondale. Too large for one single group, we split into two. The 7 faster riders, led by Peter J, set off first, and were never seen again by the second group of 10 who proceeded at a relaxed touring pace.

Our first stop was at the Old School House Tea Room at Hebden, where we had hoped to meet up with the faster group. As there was no sign of them, we assume they had continued to Grassington for their refuelling stop. The Tea Rooms were a new experience for most of us, and whilst the food was good, the service was slow, taking nearly 90 minutes. So it was after 1pm when we left Hebden, and soon after we entered wonderful Wharfedale taking the minor road north from Grassington. So many of the fields and meadows were a sea of golden yellow with the sunshine illuminating the thousands of buttercups - a true delight.

After Conistone we crossed the River Wharfe and passed Kilnsey Crag, where many rock climbers were displaying their vertical skills. One mile further on, at Amerdale Dub, the confluence of the Rivers Skirfare and Wharfedale, we turned left to follow the River Skirfare upstream through Littondale as far as Arncliffe, where we stopped outside the Falcon Inn (the original "Woolpack" in the TV series Emmerdale - the title of which is derived from Amerdale Dub). We resisted the temptation of the barbeque outside the Falcon - shame we didn't know about it in advance as we could have stopped here for lunch. However, the bunting outside the Falcon encouraged us to display our Jubilee colours, so the three of us who were marking the Jubilee by dressing in red, white and blue, obliged with a patriotic photo call.

We then turned back down Littondale taking the road on the opposite bank. What a wonderful dale this is - a true gem as can be see the photos, and it's virtually traffic free. We then followed Wharfedale through Conistone and Grassington to Burnsall, where Terry jumped off his bike to help a lady having difficulty extricating her car from its parking slot. Thankful of the offer, she quickly jumped out of the car, Terry took over and was last seen heading towards the M62. Only joking! Captain Fantastic returned the car to the delighted lady, and to the admiration of the gathered crowds. Our ride down wonderful Wharfedale resumed to Appletreewick, Bolton Abbey, (afternoon tea stop basking in the sun outside Cavendish Pavilion), Beamsley, Ilkley and Askwith, where we took the long climb up Askwith Bank and on to Swinsty, Fewston and Beckwithshaw, arriving home at 6.30pm. 76 glorious miles in wonderful weather, even better scenery, and great company. Every cloud has a silver lining: yesterday's clouds were replaced by today's silver lining. Cycling though Upper Wharfedale is my idea of cycling heaven.

I've been there and back today. Fabulous! Eric

Alternative Jubilee Ride Report

On being elected the rider of the fast Jubilee Ride PCJ set off from Hornbeam with six other riders. On arriving at Beckwithshaw PCJ immediately forgot the route as described by Eric W, short term memory failure, and so we turned left instead of right. The ride then went to Little Alms Cliff Crag, and then

turned right on to the B6451 to head past the Sun Inn, and just before the Penny Pot Lane turning we went left towards Fewston and headed for the A59. After a quick blast down the A59 it was on to Meagill Lane and then back on to the original route to Duck Street. At Grassington it was decision or indecision time for the riders as PCJ was heading back home via Bolton Abbey. The net result was two riders continued on to Littondale, one stayed in Grassington to await Eric W's group, and four set off for Harrogate. At Askwith the group of four was reduced further when two decided to go back to Harrogate via Timble and Fewston, the remaining two continued on to Cockpit Farm for refreshments and then home to Harrogate. Peter J

Great Ride

Great Company.

Great "one liners" from Terry, Glyn and Peter B

Dave P



