

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Poddlers Ride Report

About 20 of us turned up for poddling, a goodly number given that the weather was dull and rain was forecast. A new member, Janet Paley, on a new bike, was among the number, and Alison Noble kindly offered to lead a sub-group, as 20 is a bit too big for comfort, and we agreed to join up again at the old Station on the way into Wetherby. The rain held off as we went through Burn Bridge, briefly south along the A61 and then left into the small, quiet Walton Head Lane, into Kirkby Overblow and on through Sicklinghall towards Wetherby. We waited at the old Station for Alison and her group, where five of our number left us to return along old railway track. The rest of us continued through Wetherby, across the river and along the cycle path to Bramham, where Gordon and Alison left us to head towards Collingham. The remaining group voted for a coffee stop, and so Caroline led us into Boston Spa, but when we got there only 4 chose to stop for coffee, the rest making their own way back. After coffee, went back along the Harlan Way to Spofforth, Rudding and the Showground hill, by which time the rain had set in for good. About 33 miles. Joe

## Wheel Easy Ride Report

A group of four headed to Hampsthwaite via Beckwithshaw, Norwood Lane, Menwith Hill and High Birstwith. After refreshments at 'Sophie's' we returned via Tang, Kettesing and the busy Skipton Road. The later reminding us to always carry a map. Even though it rained it was an enjoyable 28 mile Wheel Easy bike ride. Paul

"We set off with the main group, but noticed Gia had become distracted by an extensive gardening project as we approached Ashville. The next thing we knew, we were toiling up the hill out of Beckwithshaw to Little Almscliffe, and realised we had escaped the Peloton. So we had a break on the crest, however, a luckless passing fellow-cyclist caused a serious lack of concentration as we tried to enrol him in a 'special deal' 5 years advance membership of Wheel Easy [using the Malcolm sales technique] The result was an animated conversation, much laughter, but no sale! We think we may need further training. Unfortunately this distraction had allowed Richard to become leader, and so it was with little surprise that we headed off for the Timble all-you-can-eat/drink. Richard's ability to navigate was under severe strain as Fewston reservoir was now in view but @ 180 deg. and to the rear! However, this appeared to be part of some personal training regime, and after circling for around 1/2 hour, we finally crossed between Fewston and Swainsty en route for Timble. As we were on a 2-stop strategy, we eventually staggered out and made for Sophie's Cafe [or more properly: Hampsthwaite!] After the tea we stopped briefly at Knox bridge and FP Dave offered lots of helpful advice to the amazed workforce (Jock, Joe and Ashley) incidentally who are looking forward to seeing as many as can, this Sat and Sun [see press for details] 37 miles saw us home, just before the downpour!" Stuart

## EG's Ride Report

The forecast we had was for some light rain, well that can't be bad considering the weather that's been thrown at us this year. Last week it had been North to Ripon and Masham, so today it was South to Tadcaster, the eight riders heading on Abbey Road, picking up Dave W, as usual facing the wrong way. By Little Ribston the wet stuff started, so change of plan and into Wetherby, Morrisons Cafe, bikes under cover and see how the weather goes. When it comes to route changes the EG's are very flexible, which is more than can be said for their joints. Weather now a little brighter so on to Tadcaster via the cycle path, meeting up with a Pod of Poddlers, time for a quick chat, then on to Taddy and Askham Richard and a quick banana break. Dave W suggested a deviation via Rufforth (there's that flexing again). At Rufforth the pelaton came to a screeching halt as Norman spotted a cafe in

the old village school. A nice late lunch, would recommend to all Wheel Easy, eight teas and one milk were drunk so unfortunately can not comment on the coffee (sorry Malcolm). Dave's deviation was to have taken in a Poppleton and a Beningbrough, however (not unexpected) the wet stuff started again. Light rain? pah!, positively persisted it down, so flexible again, bye bye Benningborough and shortest way home. After the cold wet bath small patches of blue could be seen in Harrogate. Roll on Winter, snows less wet, but we managed well over 40 and doing it is what it is all about. Dave P.

