

Sunday, April 21, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 364

Short Ride

Sixteen riders took off from Hornbeam on the short ride. We headed off to Fewston via the St Georges Road cycle path where we parted company with 2 riders at an early stage. Up past Ashville College, and left at the roundabout passed the Squinting Cat. Otley Road then through Beckwithshaw and right onto Norwood Lane where the group split to make way for a speedier group lead by K, and a 'more sedate' group, led by S.

Onward to reconvene at the Washburn Heritage Centre for coffee and cakes, with thanks to the friendly volunteers who do such a great job at welcoming all. Unfortunately and very mysteriously, we managed to lose one group member, so hope that D. got home safely! (Is this a first in 'short ride' history?) After our pit stop, 12 riders returned to Harrogate via Pennypot Lane and the long drag up via Oakdale, with people peeling off at various places along the route. An enjoyable morning with good company, as usual. Sarah E

Medium Ride

Nine riders set off on a reasonable Spring Day, but found a brisk headwind as we made our way up to Stainburn Forest and on to Fewston Reservoir. Jan and Mick left us there to pursue an alternative route and we agreed to meet at Sophie's later. 7 riders carried on, overcoming Timble and Hardisty Hills and enjoyed the views at the top once the legs had recovered. We then had a pleasant mostly downhill cruise through Dacre, Darley and Birstwith and arrived at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite ready for welcome refreshments. Good company as always and welcome to Gavin on his first Wheel Easy ride. About 30 miles. Monica



Medium Plus Ride

At last the 'Daffodil ride'.

This ride route proved to be very popular with about 35 people aiming to ride to Snape to see the long awaited daffs. Terry left with a fast group never to be seen again –hope they enjoyed their speedy trip. Off we went to Ripon via Farnham and then having rendezvoused with those meeting at Ripon Sports Centre onwards towards Snape. A pleasant day nearly sunny at times we followed the route via Thornborough and Carthorpe on roads which were new for many riders. Plenty of golden hosts on the verges and lots more in Snape itself. Thanks to Gia who worked hard as resident photographer. On to Thorpe Perrow for lunch in the new and improved cafe we would need this sustenance for the long ride home. To Masham and then a steep climb up to Grewelthorpe which was attacked by all riders with gusto. Super views on right and left made the climb worthwhile and a long swoop down to Ripon was our reward. The pull of the Greenway took us to Markington and then Ripley ending with photos by 'Malcolm's Bench' which acknowledges

the enormous contribution made by Malcolm in implementing the Bilton –Ripley cycleway. A large group stayed together supporting and encouraging each other all the way round. It was gratifying to see that approximately 16 ladies successfully completed this arduous 60 mile (100K) ride the longest distance this year for everyone involved .Leaders Sarah Cross and Gia. Report Sue Couture.

I've got a new bike. Oh no, sorry it's the ride report. 12 good men and true and one woman (Jill) set off for the medium plus daffodil ride. (I was on my new bike.) Terry led the ride (with his usual rather disappointing pedestrian pace...) but by the time we were leaving Knaresborough four riders decided it was wise to wait for the next group doing the same run. The remaining nine of us bowled along (with me on my new bike) at a good speed. In fact when we reached the daffodils in Snape, they were a blur of yellow, but looking lovely nevertheless.

We decided to eat at Masham so we left out the spur which takes you to the Arboretum. (Terry took us on an interesting little circuit in Ripon to make up for it, despite dark mutterings from some members.) Lunch over, we set off, (with me on my new bike) and took the route back to Ripon via Grewelthorpe. Various people peeled off at various points as we approached Harrogate but it was an excellent ride with good company, good banter and, oh yes, I had a new bike. Did I mention that? Steve P







Long Ride

Four of us met at Penny Pot at 8.00 and Colin joined us as we were near Menwith. A stop was taken at Grassington where Eric returned home for a family birthday bash. Then to Kettlewell and Park Rash. It is a scenically wonderful climb and is to be enjoyed and not endured. At the top it was much colder and the descent of Coverdale was a just reward for our effort. We continued to Middleham and along the main road to Masham where we snacked and saw the daffodil riders. The remaining ride was standard but the forecast rain was minimal and Rob and I opted for a comforting ice-cream at Ripley. Congrats to Rob -- he now knows what his cycling companions know - that such climbs as Park Rash pose no problems to him. Peter Bradley





