

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Wheel Easy Wednesday Ride

Depleted numbers to-day, just Kevin, James and myself. I was a man with a map, if not actually a fully formed plan, so we set off.... Stray paths to the Ripley Greenway, from Ripley past Bishop Thornton and fairly directly to Risplith for an early coffee and a pore over the map. Past Grantley Hall, through High Grantley, heading towards Kirkby Malzeard, but halfway to KM we took a left on a minor road which would eventually take you to Pateley. Bypassing Laverton, we took a right on an even smaller road (sign said..."singletrack road..no passing places for a mile"). This is a delightful little road, and we took it fairly gently as it climbs up past the Greygarth Monument onto Dallowgill Moor....where we realised how sheltered that little road is! Lovely on Dallowgill Moor to-day, clear and bright, you could see for miles. Not terribly windy to-day by recent standards, but its pretty open on the moor, and it was behind us..... and it was behind us all the way through Laverton and Galphay, all the way to Ripon.... it probably isn't actually downhill all the way from Dallowgill Moor to Ripon, but it felt like it to-day, we made good speed to the Spa Gardens for tea and more cake around one o'clock, I think.

Then the usual way home, I was indoors just after 3 o'clock. Plenty of curlews and lapwings up on the moor, wood anemones, celandines, a few bluebells showing, coltsfoot, lots of violets, and lots of white violets on the road bypassing Laverton, which was nice. Kevin hadn't been that way on his bike before, and James said he hadn't cycled further than Grantley, so a good day! CT.

Poddler's Ride

18 Poddlers set off in the sunshine, 10 with Glyn and 6 with me. At the end of Forest Moor road we saw the first group turn right, up the hill towards the A658, never to be seen again! Joe, Geraldine, Caroline, Sue, Jane, Linda and I continued through Follifoot, Kirkby Overblow and then down to cross the A61 and into Burn Bridge. Unfortunately we then had to ascend Brackenthwaite Lane (who planned this ride?) At the top we had a discussion about the Biobank, and then descended into Beckwithshaw, where we said "goodbye" to Joe and Geraldine who were off to the dentist's. We 5 ladies chatted our way past the army college, around the edge of Hampsthwaite and into Killinghall. Here Jane thankfully stopped at her house, and C, S, L and I slowly made our way back along the new bike path. We were waylaid by men cutting down trees who joined in the photo call! We said "hello" to Malcolm, as Sue hadn't seen him before, and then finally arrived in Harrogate. The first group followed the same route, but much much faster!!! 26miles in true 'Poddler' fashion Jenny Appleyard





E G's Ride

First and foremost, best wishes for a speedy recovery to Eric Waters who broke his hip today and is at present in Middlesbrough Hospital. The EG`s and the rest of Wheel Easy as fellow cyclists feel deeply for you especially considering the busy year cycling you had planned. The weather was excellent for cycling with sunshine and a slight chill in the air. The destination chosen was Northallerton with an option of a shorter ride to Thirsk if some did not want a long ride. The fourteen riders on thirteen bikes headed for Boroughbridge and Morrisons cafe who could accommodate the fourteen with no problem. Then North in the sun to Topcliffe, Skipton on Swale, Pickhill and Maunby, here Colin left us to return home. Then it was on to Northallerton where the group split in to two for refreshment, Northallerton was crowded with a street market filling the main street. Lunch over the two groups met up(though Nick left us to return home) and made for Bullamore, Peter B and Dan continued to Smithy Farm to climb on to the Borrowby ridge, the remainder headed South to Crosby Court, where Eric had his accident. There was not due to any negligent riding and fortunately Norman was not injured. An ambulance was called and Eric was taken to Northallerton Hospital. Barry and Norman took turns to ride the tandem solo, and because of this the route was shortened by taking a more direct route to Topcliffe via South Otteringham and Busby Stoop. In Boroughbridge seven made it to Morrisons cafe just before closing time, with two continuing home. It had been a great ride in great weather, but marred by Eric`s accident. Special thanks to Barry and Norman who took turns to ride the tandem home solo , made more great by the fact that none of them had done a mileage like this for a very long, they certainly rose to the occasion when needed, also to Dave Siswick for his offer of a shuttle service for EG and bike if needed. The maximum mileage for Harrogate riders, just under 80 miles, though Glyn would have just missed out on his hundred, though a few laps round Roundhay Park may have got him there. Keep your thoughts for Eric, a few of us have talked to him this evening, and remember that experienced cyclist killed on Greenhow Hill recently. Dave P.



