

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride Report

Knox, Hampsthwaite, Clapham Green, Birstwith straight on until right turn over Hartwith Toll Bridge, left on main Pateley road (B6165), first right through Hartwith. Left at T Junction then right to Brimham rocks. Past Brimham ignore right turn to Warsill and go straight on to the B6265. Turn right and after one and a half miles turn right on to narrow road. At T junction turn left into Sawley and then right to Low Gate. Turn left along Monk Wall towards Fountains. Then turn right. Follow this road ignoring 2 right turns. Go through Watergate then turn left by Raventofts Hall then head past the Drovers into Ripley and Greenway Home 32 miles. We had 12 poddlers plus 1 more to Brimham when he surged on. Mike was fresh back from conquering many of the Welsh mountain passes and his pink has turned to orange but not the bike. There were a few moans about the hills, and a lot from one gentleman whose wife had just left him for southern climes (hopefully temporarily!) but it always seemed to be me just in front of our excellent back-marker Steve. There were a lot of hills but it was a beautiful day with wonderful views. 6 of us retired to Ripley church tearooms where we had a wonderful welcome and had excellent hot drink and cake or scone for £3 each. They are closing next week for the winter, promising to open again in May. The poddlers have had a number of trips there this summer and we shall miss it. PS Low Gate Lane would be difficult in wet weather and it does have "a horrendous hill" to quote Dennis! Liz





### **Wednesday Ride Report**

Today marked the second week of meeting in the second car park and ensuring that all riders knew of the intended routes. The result is that the groups of riders are becoming more manageable! Gia and Malcolm had two shorter ride options depending on the requirements of the group, Liz and back up Steve were going on a hilly 30+mile Brimham ride, Richard talked about Lotherton Hall, Andrew and Dave of Masham and Lofthouse and Paul off to Ripon to book the Christmas meal. So plenty of choice and a great sunny day to enjoy a Wheel Easy ride. Our group of ten agreed on the ride to Little Almscliff, High Birstwith, Hampsthwaite, Hollybank Woods and the Greenway with a stop at Sophie's. It was a wonderful ride, great weather, great that many sections of the ride were new to several of the group and as always a good coffee stop with lots of chat. Brilliant to have Kevin out on a longer ride with us. Thanks to him and to Nicky for back marking and encouraging. 24 miles. Gia

After a nice break at Ripon with a very relaxed atmosphere and as usual good company the open moors beckoned, so Colin & Martin bade farewell to their fellow riders and the excellent guide (Paul) and sped off up to Dallowgill. A strong head wind developed from the North West making the effort to get up to the top somewhat taxing. The views however to the Cleveland Hills, towards Great Whernside and into Niderdale were stunning. Progress was made along a well defined track (90% cyclable on 25C tyres) and down to Ramsgill. With a strong tail wind progress was quick to Pateley where a second stop at the market site was fitted in. The route then followed the valley to Ripley via the toll bridge and the track through the woods (seemed quite smooth!). Back along the Greenway and home. A very scenic ride totalling 54 miles. Now how about a rough stuff sub section ..... ? Martin D



Eight riders rode to Ripon via the Greenway, Ripley, Markington and Fountains Abbey. We went to Oliver's Pantry for refreshments. Colin and Martin wanted a longer ride and headed towards Dallowgill while the rest continued home via Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough. A lovely 32 mile ride. Paul



### **Pugh's Cruise Ride Report**

The new start regime at Hornbeam calls for certainties in destination, distance, terrain and pace. However, today's Pugh's Cruise announcement fell a little short, as the original call of flat-ish to Lotherton and York was quickly replaced by something brisk and hilly to Masham and beyond. The group comprised Richard P, David R, Andy C and Chris, plus myself - making it a mixed ability affair, very much in evidence in the hardware being ridden. A sweet and malty Masham was reached at a brisk pace, taking a well-worn route through the Greenway, Ripley, Fountains, Winksley Banks, Kirkby M and Grewelthorpe. Even though it was barely 11.30 when we were sat inside Bordar's Cafe, menu selections clearly showed it was lunchtime. I can

recommend the goat's cheese and sun-dried tomato panini (or should it be panino?), by the way. Time trial reminiscences flowed from Chris and Andy, but by 12.00 we were heading for Leighton Reservoir and Lofthouse Moor in increasingly pleasant warm weather. As planned by YW prior to spillway works, the reservoir is now very well down in level, giving anglers an appreciable hike to the water's edge - our picture shows the extent of the exposed earth banking by the bridge. Successive climbs to the cattle grids, gave us wonderful views across to the North York Moors and Teesside and, courtesy of two fellow cyclists, a whole group photo. There followed a busier-than-usual descent to Lofthouse, by which time the weather was agreeably warm (max 21 deg). Lofthouse to Pateley is usually ridden at pace and today was no exception, taking us to Teacups Cafe by 1.30 for afternoon tea on the "terrace", where we got lightly showered from above, but it was warm enough to ignore it. After Glasshouses, a wind-assisted blast down the valley road followed; the B6165 is now free from the rolling road works which have taken the edge off things over the summer. A brief re-grouping at Burnt Yates (it was a mixed ability group, remember) allowed us to admire a magnificent rainbow. From Ripley, the Greenway took us to our various points of farewell with at least half an hour to spare before the school rush began - always welcome. Stats: 58 miles at c 12.5 mph; 4430 ft ascent (Garmin) vs 3820 ft (Strava). It felt like a lot, anyway. Thanks to all for the day out. Terry



### **EG's Ride Report**

The weather forecast was good and we had eleven riders at Low Bridge, including Martin W guesting from the W E Wednesdayers, and looking for a few extra coffeee stops. Thereby hangs a tale. First things first and away to Angela`s Cafe for Coffee, Tea and Toasted Teacakes. Although the weather was good for an English Autumn, texts were recieved from Eric and Peter B, laying it on thick, regarding them running out of money, having spent it all on sun cream and could we have a whip round for them. The sun must have addled their brains did they not realise

their texts were going to Yorkshire and we have padlocks on our purses. After sustenance and a weather check we headed to Easingwold via Grafton, Lower Dunsforth, Boroughbridge, Brafferton and Raskelf. At Easingwold a banana break (no tea for Martin) and Dave S returned for home, the remaining ten heading for Stillington and Sheriff Hutton. It was perfect cycling weather as we speed along the ridge to Sheriff Hutton with perfect views over the plain of York, with the odd occasional cry from an EG "when will we get to Filey ?". A nice swoop down in to Strensall for a stop for Drugs and choccy bars (still no tea for Martin). We were approached by an Elderly Lady on a bike, the EG`s always eager to try out their chat up lines asked her if she was going with us. "where are you going to ?" asked the EL. "Benningborough" was the reply. "too far" was her reply. "Benningborough too far ?" said the EG`s, Oh! said the EL "I thought you said Edinbrough". She would have fitted in well. Then Wiggington, Skelton and a horrendous downpour whilst still seeing blue sky and finally Benningborough, yes it did exist and Martin finally got his tea, and Roy an enormous cheese sandwich. Whilst drying out in the cafe a further begging text from Eric complaining of the heat was replied to, the terms in which the refusal was given can be left to the readers imagination. Then in to the wind and sun to Aldwark bridge, "good drying day" said Norman, Colin and Martin getting a mention in dispatches for pushing the wind. At Branton Green the Fellowship was disbanded with a fast group heading for Harrogate the remainder taking it steady with Martin nursing a knackered knee and a caffiene deficit. The mileage was somewhere between 70 and 75 miles with cogratulations to Norman and Roy who dun good, and thanks to Dave W for watching our tail ends. Brilliant day too good to waste. Dave P.





