

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride Report

There were ten Poddlers by the time we arrived at Knaresborough, disturbing Dave P's pensive gaze through the pub window but he did get in our photo! We were delighted that Steve was well enough to join us again. A still recuperating Alison left us at Farnham but the rest pushed on to Bishop Monkton and then Markington keeping an eye on the sky for the promised rain and high winds. The wind was noticed as we swooped down from the Drovers into Ripley but it was still dry. At Ripley some sped off to get home before a soaking but I gather they didn't quite manage it! Three of us had coffee at Ripley warm and dry watching the rain outside but eventually had to set off home along a very wet Greenway. About 25 miles, mostly in reasonable conditions and even a few views! Liz P



### Wednesday Ride Report

Prompt start today with all groups in decisive and organised mode. Liz led off her group, Colin led ours joined today by Richard, Terry and Martin.

The weather forecast clearly deterred many but the rest of us were pretty happy cycling to Wetherby with bright skies all around. Colin led us through the bridleway of Stockeld Park, here I commented that my sister-in-law was born at the maternity home situated there during the war. Snowdrop clumps were blooming and we emerged in Sicklinghall ready for the run in to Wetherby. Here we sampled the new café in the Shambles called Pomfrets where we were welcomed by the owner (from Sunderland) and her staff. Excellent coffees, teas, cakes etc. Worth putting on the Wheel Easy café list.

Darkened skies and wind behind, five of us returned via Knaresborough, two set off for Tadcaster and two home via Little Ribston. Home in the rain, but good ride, good route, great café and great company. Thank you Colin. Gia

The pleasant dry ride to Wetherby, coupled with good food and drink at Pomfret's, lured Richard and Terry into pushing their luck with the weather, to seek a few extra leg miles. Leaving the main group at Kirk Deighton, we took a second look at the paths around Ingmanthorpe. More or less

on cue, the day's ration of dry weather ran out near the bridle path leading to Cowthorpe. The path proved to be unrideably muddy, leaving us to push and carry along field hedges, underlining the fact that cycling overshoes are not the same as hiking boots! Monsoon conditions chased us up the Great North Road but in compensation proved very effective in washing mud off bikes and feet. A lengthy thrash up the old A1 took us to the outskirts of Arkendale and thence to Coneythorpe, Flaxby and Goldsborough. Time to find some more mud! Mill Road duly obliged but it was well down on the earlier ration. Pausing at Goldsborough Mill bridge, we made our guesses at the purpose of the works in progress at the weir: a sluice gate is installed, with what looks like a fish ladder or possibly a hydro plant. Online research needed, unless any of our readers can oblige. We settled ourselves for a quiet ride home along Abbey Road, when Richard broke his second chain in a month. At his insistence we parted for the train, in Richard's case, and the Beryl Burton path for me, to take a look at our possible task for the Sustrans Rangers next Tuesday. Yes, it was wet, windy and muddy but full of interest. We like that kind of thing! Mileage: about 40, subject to audit. Terry S.



### **EGs' Ride Report**

Another poor weather forecast, but fellow Wheel -Easiers Gia and Sue D were not deterred as they headed for Hornbeam and DP headed for Low Bridge. We only had six riders at Low Bridge, must be the forecast, however always look on the bright side of life, a good downpour saves washing your bike.

Considering all things it was decided to head for Wetherby and Morrisons via Thistle Hill, Follifoot, Spofforth, North Deighton and Kirk Deighton, and in to Morrisons Caff, bikes under cover, and wait and see how accurate the weather forecast was.

Away went five, and away went Bob S, however in a homeward direction. Nick also left us at North Deighton to miss the rain (his words). In the cafe for caffeine and calories and a long conversation (very apt considering the recent weather) on sailing ships and marine mammals. We were joined for a while by Helen T shopping for goodies for Keith`s tea.

On leaving at 11.45am, as forecast it started to rain, but this was not a problem as we headed North on the cycle track with the wind on our backs. Norman left us at Ox Close House, the remainder Dave P, Dave Wilson, and Peter J continued on the A168 (the old Great North Road) at a fast wind assisted (time trial ?) pace, turning off for Arkendale and Ferrensby and home.

Saw James returning home in Knaresborough and in to Harrogate for 1.15pm. Around 35/36 miles max, enough for a day like this. Dave P

