

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Wheel Easy Ride Report 413

Short Ride

The small group of nine welcomed one new member as we coasted off from Hornbeam Park at a gentle pace to enjoy the ride, which had the promise of turning into a nice spring morning.

Our route took us to Knaresborough via Hookstone Road and Forrest Lane Head to Calcutt. We stopped for re-grouping at Low Bridge, where we briefly met up for a quick chat with the three familiar Wheel Easy Gents, who are renowned for Sunday morning pre-ride loitering! (In the nicest possible way!!). Continuing off-road along Abbey Road to enjoy once more the spectacular wood carvings, which never cease to amaze!

Left turn to Chain Lane and under the bridge to pick up Water Lane by the new estate, for the second section of quiet off road, though sadly, eyes needed to be downwards to avoid the plentiful piles of 'doggy doo's'. Lots of wildlife - particularly swans - to be seen on the waterside of the nature reserve, as we sped by. Right turn onto Boroughbridge Road, followed by the left fork towards Farnham. Baby lambs aplenty too and weather beginning to brighten!

Left at the T junction to pass through Scriven, where lots of daffodils were cheerily displayed along the roadside. Eventually, a left turn at the little school at Lingerfield and a loop back to Knaresborough via Old Scriven, where we re-grouped to decide whether there was sufficient interest in coffee and cake. Surprise, surprise! A big yes, apart from two members, who choose to set off back to Harrogate. Before we indulged, we posed for a photo amongst the spring flowers, getting in the way of the 'boat people' who were busy wheeling the boats into the river for the start of the new season! Indulged in the Marigold Cafe with tables overlooking the river enjoying the warmth of an early spring day! Perfect!

Back to Harrogate via Beryl Burton Way - newly re-surfaced, but sadly no easier to pedal up! An enjoyable morning with good company as always, in true Wheel Easy style! Thanks to L. for back marking duties. Sarah E



Daffodil Plat Ride

It was mother's day for some (those who don't think it is meant to be mother's day every day) and teenage numbers had been bandied about on the weather forecasts. Sun symbols had even

popped up on some weather maps. The clocks had been sprung forward, therefore, meeting at 11 seemed to be a jolly good idea, as did meeting at Ripon. So it was with a spring in our wheels and a smile on our brows that we met Surjon, Jen, Jean, Neil, Dave, Sally and her lovely care of the elderly helper daughter Holly and eventually Glyn, who had already cycled from Leeds as preparation for his personal Tour de France. We headed off past the Cathedral where we experience the paparazzi snapping away and one strand of the Wheel Easy plat, having a loo stop, who may have caught the bus from Harrogate. As we wheeled out of Ripon to Hutton Conyers, Wath, towards Kirkland, we came across another plat strand, rushing to Thorpe Perrow for sustenance. By the time we reached Snape via Carthorpe there were 3 or 4 Wheel Easy strands marvelling at how we'd all appeared from nowhere. The photo shoot at Thorpe Perrow did not quite show the multitude of miraculous yellow of either the daffodils or the Wheel Easy riders due to coffee calling and late openings. Cleverly some people realised that the Thorpe Perrow café would not fit 30 plus parts of a daffodil plat, and sped straight to Masham. Now Masham was a hanging elephant in the room, because my last experience of this town smacked of horror hills and inescapable exhaustion due to intolerable inclines, which both ride leaders had tried carefully to iron off the ride map, with thorough planning and consultation. Thus we nervously set off up, what turned out to be a gentle hill up and a lovely swoop down into the said town, and then out to Swinton, ignoring the inviting sign telling us that it was only 3 miles to our next destination Gruelthorpe. After a golf course and a slight hill we found the first turn left, a tiny lane, and navigated down it with trepidation. And miracle of miracles we looped round and with little effort ended up at Hackfall Car Park viewing point and another glorious swoop down and on into Gruelthorpe, where we were joined by several surprised Wheel Easy plat strands.....Ho ho cunning navigation avoided several hills and gave us many superb views (if we had not been in a sea fret). Yet more downward swooping and plat mingling ended with a large partially completed plat at Ripon, where some continued to Harrogate via Knaresborough or Ripley. Some, on the other hand, had to complete a few laps of the Leisure centre car park in order to produce the magic 30 miles covered before they could return home. Thank you Holly for making sure we all behaved properly and got to the right places during the ride and thank you Glyn for back marking the back marker. CG





Medium Ride

20 cyclists not drawn by the lure of the daffodils at Thorp Perrow had the luxury of four leaders for the medium ride. It started off in an orderly fashion, with Paul B. and myself taking the first group and Joe and Geraldine the second. The well-behaved peletons lasted as far as Ferrensby, when a group of 'red devils' disappeared into the distance, next sighted at the North Street cafe. The two groups then became thoroughly mixed up and the back marker failed to notice that Anne's chain had come off. Fortunately Joe came to the rescue, vigilant as usual. We continued riding in groups of 4 (most of the time!) and, of course, remembering to behave correctly when turning right! Subtle hints by Alison and myself regarding the lovely scones at the Coffee Pot were disregarded by the other ride leaders, who made sure we didn't rebel, by taking the cycle path on the original A1, thus avoiding the temptation of Thorp Arch! About half the group then turned for home and the rest of us enjoyed a coffee stop at Morrison's. We finished off an otherwise flat ride via Follyfoot and the showground hill. 36 miles and quite a few daffodils! Sue W.



Med+ Ride

Medium Plus Ride: Daffodil Ride - it was a misty cool start as a big group of about 25 riders left Hornbeam with the promise in the weather forecast of sunshine to come. By Ripon, the sun was watery so it was still a promise. And so the day progressed on a promise! On the way to Snape Dennis's bike suffered a puncture and after a bit of a struggle with the chain it was fixed. Martin then demonstrated the delights of Pampers Wipes for cleaning up greasy hands and we were on our way. The daffodils at Snape were seen through increasing mist. At Thorpe Perrow the

Mother's Day queue was out of the cafe door so some stayed and after a short delay enjoyed their meal while others went over the hill to Masham to eat at the corner cafe in the square. Then it was homeward bound via Grewelthorpe followed by a lovely swoop down to Ripon and onwards to Markington and Ripley. It was a great that Gia and Malcolm joined the last part of the ride home down the Greenway having been spotted in Ripley. Many thanks to David, Sarah, and Keith for helping out with Leading the ride. Martin W.

Further Notes Med+ Ride

The Downhill Challenge to Occaney was won by Stephen. Despite the presence of reigning champion Dave S, who was this time on his Van Nicholas but this also was fitted with Kysarium "wonder wheels". No worries Dave even the great Eddy got beaten sometimes (not a lot). Congratulations to Jill J, Andrew and Michael on a 60 plus ride and finishing in great style, and thanks to our group leader Yvonne. Dave P.









Long Ride

Only 6 riders volunteered for a gentle ride to Middleham. Dave R left us at Ripon claiming an urgent appointment with a lawnmower and Mike S abandoned us after the lunch stop at Middleham. Jill, Peter R Eric and me (PS) completed the full ride which to everyone's surprised followed the pre-ordained route to the last little twist and turn. To the surprise of no-one it turned out to be longer (80 miles) than advertised and maybe, not quite pan flat but we took it at a relatively relaxed pace with an extra café stop at Spa Gardens caff. Unfortunately the weather failed to live up to our expectations but the route did not disappoint. Take a look at the ride details <http://www.cateyeatlas.com/trip/detail/172450/> it might encourage you to join the long ride.

