

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers' Ride**

Lovely nearly new member Andrew volunteered to step in and lead the Poddlers' today. I am not sure however they needed leading as they seemed to have decided where they were going without reference to any leading. So 18ish riders set off towards Knaresborough, all knowing what they wanted to do, except perhaps the ride leaders. It was a glorious morning not raining, not snowing, not frosty, but yes yes yes lots of sun and blue sky.....with just a bit of unmentionable wind. So excited were we to start we forgot to listen to where we were going and set off before the now customary announcements. However onwards from Low Bridge and lots of E.Gs and Jill, to the temptation of early coffee and cake at a village hall in Arkengaaaarthdale or somewhere like that. Six riders avoided the lure of food continued along the proposed route through Occaney, Copgrove, the bridleway to Bishop Monkton, Markington and home via Ripley and the Greenway, ignoring the alternative loop to Burnt Yates, Clint Bank and Ripley and home. Six returned home speedily, and seeing Sue O and David A, clearly having finished their coffeing safely, assumed the other 12 or 13 had. A very pleasant potter despite a ridiculously sneaky headwind. 28 and 30 miles. CG





### **Wednesday Ride**

A ride with altitude!

With a blue sky and the prospect of it remaining so and with Colin selecting the route we knew we were in for hills. The proposal was to make for the new farm shop cafe at Greenhow via Peat lane and then come back via Duck Lane- "With the wind behind us all the way" promised Colin.... Eight intrepid riders set off via the Greenway and Hollybank Wood and at Clint Bank we prepared to descend to Birstwith when our first two escapees decided on alternative route. Yvonne, who is still recovering from a calf injury wanted to limit her climbing so Martin nobly accompanied her to Pateley Bridge for coffee and a ride home. The remaining riders descended and then, after crossing the toll road set off up the valley to Glasshouses. Our third escapee came at Summerbridge when Paul, with Grandparent duties in the afternoon, returned via Darley. The remaining 5 were to see it through to the end via Glasshouses and Bewerley and then the climb up Peat Lane. This turned to a short spell of cyclo-cross (i.e. pushing our bikes up the 1 in 6 section – it is still early in the year!) before remounting and completing the ride to Greenhow and Toft Gate Barn cafe (the WE Cafe of the month!). Good surroundings, blazing log fire and good food and service it was definitely worth the climb. Having admired the fantastic views we set off up the hill to Duck Lane to be thwarted for the second week running by a road closed sign. But this time a cyclist told us it was an accident and no one was allowed through so we set off on the reverse route and fast descent down Peat Lane( but more walking at the steep part-apart from Colin) and a good ride down the valley to Burnt Yates. The male quartet wanted to wimp out and carry on down the valley but Gia carried the day and we cycled back up to Clint Bank and down to Ripley via Hollybank Wood and then the Greenway back to Harrogate. Did I mention the fantastic scenery and views to die for? We had then all-and more. A great days riding in fantastic weather and a great cafe. Thanks to Colin for the route and to John R., James and Gia for the great company. 41 Miles of sheer pleasure(and some pain). KD



### **Wednesday Ride Plus**

Four riders (Peter, Richard, Terry & Martin) set off from Hornbeam. The plan was to head west into the wind and then benefit when tired on the return run into Harrogate. We duly headed out of Harrogate via Rigton, Otley & Ilkley and on towards our first stop at Bolton Abbey. The wind was fierce and took some beating into. The effort was worthwhile with clear views and an abundance of snowdrops on what seemed every bank. Without an "official leader" democracy was utilised to determine the next part of the route. We dropped down to Cavendish Pavilions, walked the bridge and then set off for Appletreewick. Peter claiming to have forgotten how hilly the route was on the minor and very quiet road to the east of the river. As we gained height the views of Great Whernside with a snow covering were worth the effort. Soon we were admiring the views towards Simons Seat and down to Percival Hall (while we took an unplanned rest!). Our second stop at Stump Cross provided another breather. We then headed down Duck Street (shown as closed) with a wonderful tail wind. There was much talk of what "closed" actually meant and at around 30mph we came across a lorry that had veered off the road and hit a tree! This was easily circumvented, using the verge and we then sped traffic free towards Harrogate.

Stats. 53 Miles, 1232m climbing and 12.3MPH average, if you discount the numerous stops (9 MPH if you had to plan the ride).MD



### **EG's Ride**

The weather at last seems to be warming up but today it was accompanied by a strong south-westerly wind but this did not deter 12 riders turning out to take part in the EG's ride. We set out on a devious route with the intention of arriving at Tadcaster for refreshments. Leaving Knaresborough we headed for Little Ribston and then on to Hunsingore via Walshford. Then it was on to Cattal and across the bridge towards Rudgate, but at the crossroads we took a left turn and made our way towards Tockwith. Then it was a right turn towards Bilton followed by another right turn taking us back to Rudgate and on to Thorp Arch. The mystery tour continued by taking another right turn and we headed for Walton. Again the normal route to Tadcaster was disregarded and we went into Thorp Arch Trading Estate and found ourselves cycling past the British Library. After negotiating a closed road we returned to Wighill Lane and made directly for Tadcaster.

At Tadcaster Dave Watson relinquished the role of ride leader as he had a more pressing engagement. Also at this point three other riders decided to make their way back to Harrogate. The next part of the ride was a Marvin/Peter J production. This primarily consisted of making a short circular ride from Tadcaster to Oxton, Bolton Percy, Appleton Roebuck, Acaster Selby and back to Tadcaster. As a tribute to Dave Preston we took note of which direction the Ouse was flowing, and can report that it was flowing out to the sea. On the return leg to Tadcaster we stopped for refreshments at D'Oyly's Tearooms. Suitably refreshed we now tackled the return journey to Harrogate via Wighill, Wetherby and Knaresborough. PJ

