

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

The ride planned was a two parter – 15 miles or 24 miles depending on the wishes of any noble takers. In the event, Caroline, Di and I positively hurtled to Knaresborough via Spofforth and Little Ribston and were raring to undertake a further stretch to the Greenway via Scotton. We added a further dimension by photographing churches and places of worship along the way with the express intention of posing in lych gates, arches of yew and stone pillars and pediments. Di caused great hilarity by conducting a very professional striptease outside one of the aforesaid – she managed to remove one top and regale herself in another in a space of seconds – not photographed! Unfortunately, Caroline's bike started to misbehave as we approached the bridge on Chain Lane in Knaresborough and she couldn't shift the gears down. With her usual tenacity (bloody mindedness?), she struggled on but the ecclesiastical photography was forgotten. As temperatures rose, we downed copious amounts of varying liquids and joined the Greenway. The route was spectacular – wild flowers, grasses and birdsong. We parted company with Caroline as she was taking her mean machine to VELOHEADS in Starbeck. Apparently, the bike was fixed in three minutes with no charge and she was given an ice cold glass of Lemon and Barley! Here's to VELOHEADS. We thoroughly enjoyed the ride and clocked up 23.8 miles from Hornbeam whilst Di completed a fantastic 28.72 from home. Just a couple of questions – why were there three dead female blackbirds beside the roadside hedge in Nidd and what was the significance of a cat carrier complete with litter and scratch pole lying beside the road just before Little Ribston and are the two connected? Where is Miss Marple? Sue Downes

More Poddling

Cor blimey what a scorcher!! With the sun beating down 13 eager poddlers set out for Arkendale and the promise of coffee and cake for £1 if we could make the 11.45am deadline.

Things didn't bode well as we managed to lose Paul in the carpark at Hornbeam. Is this a record?

We were promised a gentle poddling ride with no steep up bits, but some of the route off tarmac. That seemed to please Liz as she said she liked a bit of rough stuff.

So off we poddled down Kingsley Drive and onto the cycleway to Ripley briefly passing Malcolm who was applying his factor 50, a taste of what was to come!! Stopping briefly at Ripley to exchange pleasantries with fellow Wheel Easy cyclists before speeding off towards Nidd, Scotton, Lingerfield and team photo at Sciven. At K'boro we said bye to Sir John. Green traffic free lanes took us a circuitous, circuitous, roundabout route to Hay-a-Park where the backmarkers managed to overtake the supposed leaders.

Thoughts of coffee and cake spurred the Poddlers on and not even an overgrown grassy bridleway and rough farmtrack could slow them down.

It is hard to believe that it is almost a year since the Tof F visited Yorkshire. Doesn't time fly? It certainly does when you're leading a Poddlers group. A group decision was made to omit an extra loop at Coneythorpe so we could press on to Arkendale for refreshments. Phew. We made it with a little time to spare and were surprised to see our long lost poddler Paul already there and enjoying the delights on offer. Some very flushed poddlers gratefully sat down to join him. Suitably refreshed it was on to Staveley, Copgrove and Burton Leonard where possible heatstroke caused Andrew to attempt the ford crossing. At least it cooled his feet. Alan was tempted to join him but thought better of it. Wise decision. Stopping briefly to admire the stunning field of poppies in the Mongarret Estate, were cameras reappeared, before continuing to Nidd, Ripley and home along the Greenway. Thank you Liz for taking photos and a big thank you to Max for back marking and keeping the tail enders in order. No easy feat.

As promised not too much up hill, some new routes for some poddlers and hopefully not too much 'rough stuff'.

Distance travelled about 34 miles and average speed 11.5 mph which was good going on such a hot sticky day. Keith M







Wednesday Ride

Today there was a choice of five rides leaving Hornbeam on the hottest day of the year. Our group thought that a visit to Toft Gate Farm café at the top of Greenhow would be a good destination, using some height to keep us cooler and a downhill ride along Duck Street.

At Brimham, John and the two Colin's left to return via Warsill, the rest of us enjoying the downhill ride to Glasshouses, a ride we nearly always seem to do in the other direction. After asking a kind gentleman in the village to fill our water bottles we were ready for Peat Lane. Even Malcolm's electric bike found the heat and gradient testing and we all certainly felt the heat but after a mixture of riding and the occasional push of our bikes we arrived at Toft Gate Farm café where we were welcomed with excellent food, coffee and good cheer from the owners.

Back down Duck Street and Kevin suggested a second café stop at Sophie's, where we had cold drinks, sat in the garden until the predicted thunderstorm arrived. Jon assured us that the storm has passed over us, when a flash of lightning followed by an enormous clap of thunder, and a heavy downpour meant that we rushed inside for shelter. After about 15 mins the sun came out and we returned to Harrogate via the Greenway. Thanks everyone, Jon, Kevin, Martin, Jennifer and Malcolm for a great ride, great company and Malcolm's first ride out to Pateley for a long time. 42 miles. Gia



Lavender Ride

The forecast for fantastic weather demanded a fantastic ride. The Lavender Farm at Terrington was the destination. A select group of 6 set off to Easingwold via Aldwark Bridge. Coffee and cake at the Curious Table really excellent. Our route was new to us all via Brandsby coming out at the top of Terrington Bank quite a few hills on the way up- although not enough for Alan! Super sunny weather as predicted with a pleasant breeze made the going good. It was a trifle hot whenever we stopped but a good fluid intake kept us on good form. Nice cafe at the Lavender Farm for sandwiches, chips and "lavender/grapefruit lemonade" plus Jugs and jugs of water average fluid intake for the group on the ride 3.5 litres an all time record. Home via Sheriff Hutton, Huby, Tollerton and Aldwark. Thanks to all for great ride and jolly company, thanks to James and Angela for navigation skills as I have none. Also thanks to Sarah R, Alan and especially well done to Janet who completed a tough 70 miles her previous longest 40. Sue C



EG's Ride

Flaming June has now gone for this year.

However July seemed to be the start of summer, and all eleven riders exposed their arms and knees (about time to).

It was head North, destination Northallerton or Thirsk, but first to Morrisons Cafe in Wetherby. Walking in to Morrisons cool air conditioned cafe was bliss after the hot dry roads.

After sustenance it was North again, except for Roy who had used up his quota of hot sun, who returned home.

On to Topcliffe, Pickhill, and Maunby, it was here it was decided to abort the Northallerton destination, well it was hot, and we had had one puncture already (and another to come).

So down to Thirsk for lunch in the square, in the sun, but then a few rain drops, on to Sowerby then it was capes on (only light rain), then off again before Dalton, was it going to be a COCO day, no sunshine all the way to Boroughbridge.

It was here Norman announced that he and Terry (who`s dinner was already in the dog) were going to take afternoon tea in Morrisons Cafe, this was to much temptation for Rob, Marvin and Dave P who joined them.

The remaining five, Bill, Dave S, Dave Watson, Dave Wilson, and Peter J who headed for home.

Old men`s memory is something not to be relied on, but surely this was the first genuine summer ride of the year (well it felt like it).

A hot, sweaty and happy ride, mileage from mid 60`s to high 60`s (that`s mileage not age).

Dave P





Long Ride

High heat and high humidity ruled out high hills for our ride today. Instead, low and slow became the watchwords and Lotherton the destination. But first there was some pre-loading of liquids, cake and cooler air at All Saints, Kirkby Overblow, taken within 30 minutes of departure – possibly even quicker than EGs. This was too early for John and Richard L, who were looking for a shortie today, and they set off for other parts. The remaining four supped slowly, even accepted a refill, in gathering ourselves for the furnace. Rather than using sticky tarmac, Richard P took us on a nice detour via reasonably rideable bridleways (on road bikes) which, after one dead end, led to Woodhall Hotel. Unfortunately we had to walk/push to complete the leg to Sicklinghall. After that, it was sticky tarmac all the way to Lotherton, via Jewitt Lane, Bramham crossroads and Aberford where a longish, relaxed lunch was taken in the courtyard – under a sun shade of course. The return leg took in a stop to view the Towton battlefield display board (see photo) before slipping through the Grimston Park estate, keeping our heads well down. Beyond Tadcaster and towards Thorp Arch some ominous-looking skies appeared along with several throaty claps of thunder. It was time for decisions! Lesley and Richard took Rudgate northwards for Knaresborough and home; Richard P and I opted for a dash to Wetherby Morrisons in the hope of sitting things out in the café. With rain falling as we parked up, the ploy worked as planned. Sadly, the Knaresborough-bound duo got a soaking. Temperatures had fallen from 34C at Tadcaster to 27C at Wetherby but as soon as we headed off home from Morrisons it was back up to 31C. Taking the direct route along B6164 to Knaresborough, our ride then picked its way through the Lido caravan park and a shady bridleway to Thistle Hill. Thence via Stonefall and The Showground hill we gasped our farewells, thankful that we had avoided strenuous climbs. Depending on whose computer you use, we covered 57 miles and, despite the day's objective, climbed 2800 ft. Finally, it was really good to welcome Richard L back to our ranks today, ten weeks after his fall on the Ripley road - looking forward to seeing you again next week. Terry Smith

