

Sunday, July 19, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 481

Short Ride

Apologies for chickening out due to the rain lashing down. Understand Sarah was able to take over for a lovely ride via Scriven to Knaresborough.

After checking the weather on my phone app it said rain until 10 and then sun at 11 I decided that to set off at 11 would be the best option. Four ladies, Lynda Mac, Skipton Lynda, Diane and myself had a very leisurely ride via the Greenway, Ripley, Pateley Bridge Road to Burnt Yates, down Clint Bank to Sophies at Hampsthwaite. Back via Killinghall and the Greenway where we found an enormous fungus. Picture attached. A 20 mile ride. Jean



Medium Ride

Heavy rain early in the morning left us with only four riders for the medium ride.

We left Hornbeam with Gordon leading myself, Paul and new member Jeremy heading out along the Greenway. The weather was already improving with only one light shower before Ripley but a freshening breeze. From Ripley we carried on through Hollybank Woods to Clint Bank Lane and down to Birstwith.

After crossing the Hartwith Toll Bridge, Gordon decided to return home as he was feeling unwell. (Hope he got back safely). The remaining three of us carried on as planned up Stripe Lane to Brimham Rocks. Paul had planned to leave us there as he was hoping to meet someone to pick billberries but soon changed his mind when he learnt that we were going straight to Risplith for refreshments.

After joining the B6265 we carried on straight down the long hill to Risplith with Paul clocking us at 38 miles per hour. Suitably refreshed we followed the road down the steep hill past Grantley Hall, narrowly missing a Range Rover crossing the bridge at the bottom. Instead of passing through Sawley as planned, we headed straight on and past the visitor centre at Fountains Abbey.

Up past the gypsy camp near How Hill and the steep hill to Watergate brought us back to the road past the Drover's and back to Ripley and into Harrogate along the Greenway
A good ride. 33 hilly miles. Jeremy seemed to have enjoyed his first outing and was looking forward to his next ride. Andrew

Medium+ Ride Report

Seventeen of us set off on a ride today that has not been on the Wheel Easy calendar for many years, a trip to Yeadon Tarn. Terry Cushley had selected the ride and recce'd the route so even though I was down as ride leader it was Terry and those with local knowledge, Debby and Rob who helped to guide us through Otley. Terry had discovered a nice route through the park alongside the river which pleasingly did not have a single NO CYCLING sign on it and we found ourself at a Tour de France mural at the other end. At this point we had absorbed Dave, Colin and Alan from the lead out group and by luck Dave S and Rob met up with us just as we left Otley. Wheel Easy seldom ride up the west side of the Chevin and up to the ridge looking for our cafe stop which was at the Cheerful Chilli. Here their generous portions of cake started to reduce as our large party demolished the display. More cakes were being baked to replenish the stock. We learned from Rob that Yeadon airport was used during the war to service Lancaster Bombers and that there were 3 German spies in the area who flagged up where the Germans should bomb. There are areas still cordoned off as there are unexploded bombs in the ground. As we left the cafe it turned very chilly (pun?) so jackets on we turned up the hill and to Colton Lane to Yeadon Tarn. Here sadly there are no cycling signs but a BMX track for kids was busy which was a good sign. We all agreed to return home via Bramhope so a long downhill run, including Weardley Bank, Harewood Bridge, Kirkby Overblow.
Welcome back to David Evans who announced he didn't get out much, to Jeannie who conquered the hills and to everyone who made it such an enjoyable day out. Also to Terry C for encouraging us to try different routes. Gia





Long Ride

Via White Horse Bank, the Gliding Club cafe and Rievaulx we reached Helmsley but after departing found the towns magnetism so irresistible that after 45mins we were still within 4 miles of the town.

This semi- circumnavigation included Harome, Nunnington and Ampleforth where we joined British Cycling's Ryedale Grand Prix. The first police escort motorbikes overtook on the climb to Yearsley but our speed did not fool the spectators.

Only 10 minutes after watching a big field of riders followed by support cars we were cycling toward Easingwold when the same blue flashing light confronted us as the race returned from a short loop.

After afternoon tea at Curious Tables my return was made possible by colleagues who maintained a well ordered chain-gang against the strong headwind, thank you guys.

Back by 5pm and about 83 miles. A great ride Peter