

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Well I suppose I really ought to apologise to all the Poddlers on today's ride, or at least to those who ended up going down the (new to me) bit of road that turned into a cart track and for all the bumps and unevenness. I bet you won't have to put up with that on next weeks ride whoever's leading it. Oh it's me, so don't hold your breath. Fourteen set off and then we gained two. Weather was good and even the traffic lights on the bridge near Rudding let most of us through without having to brake and stop. As we waited for those unfortunates who didn't get through rumour spread that we now know why Liz has been going so well since she got her new bike, she has an engine (single cylinder by the sound of it). Then we realised, false alarm it was her mudguard catching the front wheel and making the racket. A bit of tugging, pulling and bending and all was silence once more. Uneventful riding all the way through Spofforth, Little Ribston and Walshford where two riders turned back (was it something I said?). At the level crossing just before Whixley a man with a very eye catching 'red beard' and looking like a demobbed Hells Angel let us through the main gates to cross the lines assuring us that Network Rail were involved in line maintenance and so no trains were due (well I believed him). After Whixley we lost two more deciding against a coffee stop. So twelve of us headed to a new cafe and much needed refreshment. It was like the hokey cokey, we sat outside, then it started to rain so we went inside, we then came outside again when a natural break was required as the loo was out there (talk about in out in out and we'll forget the shake it all about!). Onward to Great Ouseburn then turn left and at the main road turn left and then right onto a bridleway, which entices with smooth tarmac only to disappoint with sand, gravel, stones and grass for the last mile and a half. David got a puncture so I went back to help and left Jenny to lead the group to the end of the ride, either that or bleached bones in some forgotten part of the North Yorkshire countryside (sorry Jen). I heard later that near Arkendale Paul decided to try origami using his chain as the substrate. It must have been bad because after having taken Davids tyre off, put an inner tube in and blown it up, we found that also had a hole in it so we did the whole thing again and even with all that David and I still beat the Jenny back to Hornbeam. Texting to Jen 'where are you' I got the answer 'Bettys' nuf said. I am now going to sow a few potatoes in the rather excellent soil I have just cleaned off mine and Jenny's bikes. 34 rather wet miles. Ian

Paul's Recce Ride

In preparation for Sunday's ride I thought I would ride the route as there were sections I hadn't rode since the early days of Wheel Easy. Four members came with me as we headed for Kirkby Overblow and through the fields to Harewood Bridge. The route then took us through Harewood Estate where one of the group decided 'off road riding' wasn't for him and headed for the roads. It was at this stage that we all agreed that although we were enjoying the ride it probably wasn't suitable for a large group of riders. We continued onto East Keswick and Collingham where we stopped at Café 1066 for coffee. Certainly a café and Deli worth visiting. On route to Collingham we met up with a lady from Sheffield who was cycling to Harrogate and was unfortunately lost so she joined us on the route back. We found it amusing when she told us that the last time she cycled in this area another Wheel Easy member came to her rescue. A good 28 mile ride with excellent company. Paul



Wednesday Ride

Eight riders set off from Hornbeam towards Masham, James the potential short ride leader was let off and he managed to catch the group up. Our route took us along The Greenway then to Birstwith and the toll road and up Stripe Lane and to Brimham. Our intention was to cycle across Dallowgill Moor which unfortunately meant a wet and windy experience. The heavy drizzle continued as we turned towards Laverton and towards Ilton climbing up the stepped hills we did warm up. The run down to Masham was in fine weather but by then we were quite cold. Ali's café was full so we cycled over to the Market café which was really good and baked beans on toast, paninis and hot drinks did the trick and set us up for the cycle home. The weather warmed up nicely and was dry so a big improvement – home via Snape, Tanfield and Ripon. We were honoured with the presence of Martin D, Terry, Phil and Stuart who kept us on our toes with a speedy pace, they joined us as their elite group was on holiday. A pleasant ride of 65 miles with excellent company and some roads encountered which were unfamiliar to some so very worthwhile. As usual thanks to expert navigators for their input. Sue C



EG's Ride

It was a grey day, but rain was`nt forecast, Ha!

We had sixteen riders at Low Bridge, fifteen EG`s plus a Nicola.

The intention was Wharfedale and see how it went regarding the weather.

Down to Wetherby and Morrison`s (bikes under cover) for lots of toasted teacakes.

On emerging it was capes on, and up on the ridge in light (but warm) rain.

At Kirkby with Netherby three riders left to return home.

The big swoop down to Netherby was taken with care.

At Leathley bridge two more riders departed and a further two again in Otley.

So nine riders entered Cockpit Cafe (there`s maths for you).

Was it the light ? rain or thought of Askwith Bank that had reduced our numbers?.

After lunch the rain had stopped and it was up Askwith Bank in good order.

The first to the top was Bob, the rest following chatting together, if you can talk whilst climbing, now that`s fitness..

Bob in the absence of Dave S was the Occaney Downhill champion, and he was given some ribbing about weight and consequent velocity, however what weight he had he pushed it up the hill very well.

Nicola also put in an excellent performance, and it was only her third ride this year with Wheel Easy.

A challenging little ride of over 40 miles (roll on summer) Dave P

