

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

## Wednesday Rides

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### **Poddlers' Ride**

Again a small select group set off for a slow sedate saunter around the sights of outer Harrogate. The Greenway to Ripley, Holly Bank, Clint Bank, Cut Throat Lane (bank) to the Drivers crossroads and onwards to towards Fountains Abbey. A pleasant slide down to Markington and back to Ripley up another bank. As we entered the Ripley church recognisable bikes parking told us it was evident that we had been beaten to it by the W.W. group, who we thought had gone east.....strange. Lovely to meet up with Jane and Kev for a quick coffee and a bit more chatter. Twenty four relaxed pleasant slow miles and back in time for lunch and an afternoon being able to do something other than sleep. Thank you to all my fellow saunterers. Caroline G

### **Short Ride**

There were 15 of our nameless ex Poddler group and Gordon lead us through Knaresborough to Goldsborough, Flaxby, Arkendale, Staveley, Farnham, Scotton and Ripley. The weather was good on the whole though some of us nearly parted from our bikes as a severe cross wind caught us as we approached the turn off to Brearton. There was plenty of chatter to keep us occupied. At Ripley, some opted to return directly via the Greenway while others retired to Ripley church for cakes and scones. Here there was much discussion on how we want to cycle as a group in the future. Another decision was to go home via Hampsthwaite and Knox, which nearly all of us did. 27 miles for those who went on the Greenway and just over 30 for those via Knox. Many thanks to Gordon for leading and Glyn for back-marking - when he was not hunting for eggs! Apologies to Steve - I managed to miss you off the photo! Liz P



### **Wednesday Wandering Away Day Ride**

The first of the Wednesday Wandering ride was from Easingwold and 11 riders gathered at the Curious Table for an early coffee before setting out on a ride around the Howardian Hills. We set off under a grey sky but we were all confident that the weather would improve. We made our way towards Newburgh Priory and then took a superbly surfaced gate road (better than some main roads in Harrogate!) towards Ampleforth. Passing the College we made for Nunnington and enjoyed some superb views across the valley. We then saw Castle Howard in the distance and we aimed for the rolling road that went past the House and made our way to the Lavender Farm at Terrington for lunch. We were joined there by Paul T who had not been able to make the early start so had been dropped off at the start and rode the reverse route and met us for lunch.

Being suitably refreshed we set off on the home leg and after a few early ups and downs to get rid of the cafe legs we made for Bransby and Sherriff Hutton where Colin gave us our daily dose of history by visiting the local church with its connections to Richard III.

We spurned a further tea stop at an interesting little cafe in the village to make our way back to Easingwold via Stillington and a second refreshment stop at the Curious Table in Easingwold. We then loaded up our bikes and made our way back to Harrogate and got back by 5.30pm.

The weather improved all day, along with the views and, as always the company was good and the banter excellent; 50 miles of enjoyable riding.

It was great being able to explore the area by starting at nearer the area and the consensus was that it should be done again, look out for details.

Thanks to Colin for another great route, James for helping transport riders and to everyone who turned up and made it such an enjoyable day. Kevin D





### **Wednesday Long Ride**

Returning to a Wheel Easy ride after 5 weeks away was a re-assuring affair – so reassuring that I forgot to ask where we were heading for. With a stiffening breeze from the SW, it made sense to head NW, which is how we found ourselves riding past Peter R's front gate in Beckwithshaw, down the dreadful corrugations to Pot Bridge and on to the Hampsthwaite turn at Penny Pot. Here the first of several route conferences took place. A second near Forest Moor School allowed us to retain the height gained so far – good move! On past Stonehouse Inn, and after admiring the perfect heather on the moors, the descent of Yorke's Folly followed, down a road mercifully clear of any significant gravel wash. I'm not sure which route conference opted for an early stop at Teacups but, again, a good move. So pleasant was it in the sun outside the cafe that elevenses were taken at a very relaxed pace - the spell being broken by talk of lunch in Masham. Pausing in Lofthouse, Peter decided that he would need to head back home, which he did after a quick tour of the dams at the head of the dale. Next came Trapping Hill, always a challenge, particularly this time for Martin who chose his tourer for today's ride (see picture) and for Richard L on his first major hill since his tumble in April. He was the first up, so recovery is almost complete. Once past the cattle grid, distant views of Teesside mingled with nearer views of Leighton reservoir, picturesque in the sunshine, but noticeably empty. Earlier, Gouthwaite had been unusually full – we wondered whether they might be connected. Bordar's hosted

lunch and another route conference. Consensus this time – back via Snape and Ripon. The only incident on this stretch was a puncture, caused by a failed valve seat; luckily it wasn't on a fast descent. How many cyclists does it take to put a tyre on? Our picture shows the Leake Smith combo just about there, but in need of a refresher of Colin T's YouTube video. Conference opted for a third cafe stop in Ripon, which caught Spa Gardens in full summer swing with bowlers, putters and tea drinkers, to whose numbers we added with gusto. From Ripon, the group headed home via Knaresborough for Lesley, Richard and me, with Messrs Leake, Pugh and Dowling opting for a trek over the Mountgarret estate to reach the Greenway. It was a lovely warm day in the end, with few issues from headwinds but gladly-accepted tailwinds on the climb from Lofthouse. Mileage: c72; ascent c4500. Terry S





### **EGs' Ride**

The weather forecast was a bit uncertain, but we still had a dozen riders at Low Bridge. See photo of EG`s next to Beer lorry.

Were they waiting for items to "fall off the back of a lorry"?

Perhaps the Title "Black Sheep" could also be applicable to the EG`s.

In times of weather uncertainty what else but head for Wetherby and York (plain and simple).

In Morrison`s we met with Helen and Keith T (in civies) for a chat.

On to Taddy and Appleton Roebuck, crossing the bridge over the railway line open to pedestrians only? this point will be raised later. Ian, Norman and Roy left us to return via Copmanthorpe.

Lunch was taken at Rowntree`s Park cafe, today the food and service seemed a little bit off.

Then on the cycle path to Shipton, here the bridge over the railway lines was closed to Pedestrians and Cyclists as well as vehicles.

I have cycled all over Yorkshire for over 60 years but have never come across a bridge under repair being closed to pedestrians? Even if it means having to build a temporary footbridge, can any of our legal eagles comment on this? Fortunately the diversion is easy to follow.

The weather actually "turned out nice again" and the wind was mostly in our favour, and except for one puncture, no incidents, except for the usual laughs.

The mileage was well over sixty, but then aren't we all! Dave P



