

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Yet another glorious day for cycling was forecast...and the mists were just beginning to unwrap, as seven Poddlers attacked the route to Knaresborough. Two new ladies who were having a day off from teaching at Rossett. Judith and John who have been before, wanted a gentle jaunt, Monica S., Suè D., and a leader avoided several delivery vans who were intent on causing damage, before reaching Low bridge. Always a pleasant route, we rode in a stately manner from Knaresborough to Wetherby down the cycle path past the race course to Thorpe Arch village and Boston Spa, where we thought we might stay sitting in summer like sun, until someone/thing could transport us home. However with the lure of coffee at North Street Deli we were encouraged onto our bikes to Bramham, and back to Wetherby for refreshment. Having had some perfect snacks, moving out of the sun and onwards was nearly an impossibility. But we reached Spofforth with only Sue being nearly damaged by a cross looking cyclist who wanted the whole path to himself. We arrived back in Harrogate only an hour and a half behind schedule. Hopefully the two Rossett ladies will get their marking completed, and their baking perfected.....what about a fleet of mini choux pastry bikes with chocolate creme patisserie fillings on a lemon drizzle and carrot cake landscape. Good luck anyway, and hope to see you both again. Thank you to all for playing nicely. 31 miles covered at least an average of 2 mph...with a lot of downhill. CG



Wednesday Wanderers Ride

Last day of September with a misty autumnal start to the day, 14 riders gathered at Hornbeam and we welcomed new rider, Phil who we named Low Profile Phil, as he did not want to be noticed. Gordon was the leader and Liz F was allocated the roving reporter's job, Alison assigned as back marker and off we went. Through Harrogate to Knaresborough Low Bridge, then onto Farnham, through Staveley on to Boroughbridge. The sun began to shine and warm us for a lovely ride out down the lanes towards Aldborough where we stopped for a photo call. Mike suddenly shot off leaving his gloves behind and we realised he had spotted a female runner and wanted a closer look, he hasty returned to the group beaming, realising he had left his gloves on top of the post box, David had suggested posting them back to him. Returning back via Marton, Arkendale to Farnham, it was proposed rather than go to Knaresborough, we head to Ripley Church to say our thanks and have delicious refreshments before they closed until next Easter. This was the last day that Ripley Church was open for coffee and cake, its wonderful ladies had provided beautiful cakes throughout the summer to Wheel Easy. Gordon agreed to let those who wanted to go on to Ripley, his group became five and they headed home via Knaresborough,

nine of us set off for Ripley. Through Scotton onto Nidd led by the roving reporter we pedalled hoping that we had got it right and the church was still open. It was open and we all entered the church rather noisily, very welcomed by the ladies and where the lovely selection of cakes caused a dilemma, Maris and Mike shared their chocolate and carrot cake as they could not make up their mind which one to have. Mike turned his jacket chocolate coloured so could not hide he had been eating cake. Our thanks go to the ladies who have provided delicious cakes and scones over the summer at Ripley Church. We hope to see you next year and we will certainly miss our Wednesday stop. Leaving Ripley churchyard everyone ready to go, another commotion at the back, yes you have guessed it Mike was dallying with the ladies again, bromide in his tea was mentioned.

A lovely ride back along the greenway, at Bilton Cross, Low Profile Phil went left towards Knaresborough, roving reporter ignoring his plea not to be mentioned, hope he returns. Liz turned right towards Bilton and nine onwards to Harrogate. 34 miles approx. on a lovely autumn day. EF.



EG's Ride

The day began very misty on Harlow Hill, and through the mist came the figure of Terry C on a bike loaded up with big panniers, tent, sleeping bag, kitchen sink and other essential items needed for a tour in Spain, he was taking the bike for a handling trial run (very wise).

With good wishes he then vanished in to the mist.

At Low Bridge we were down on numbers, only eight, but that included Theo (good to see you back Theo), he still puts in a good pace but is restricting his mileage.

Route choice, a bit difficult as every suggested destination seemed to have been done on Wednesday or Sunday.

The wind being from the East, Easingwold was chosen as our first coffee stop. At Marton cum Grafton Norman, Terry W, and Theo turned off for Boroughbridge.

After caffeine and a lot of beans at the Curious Table, taken outside in sunshine, plus a long chat with a couple of Scottish Cycle Tourists (no interpreter needed Norman, they were from Edinburgh),

a famous five headed for Yearsley and its hill, which all accomplished, including DP, a claim to fame?, soon to be followed by a claim to shame.

On towards Ampleforth then taking the metaled track (this time in reverse) to Coxwold, Carlton Husthwaite and the Sessay`s, at which DP exclaimed "golly gosh" forgot to pay my bill, followed by Marvin who admitted to the same. (claim to shame)

There is some excuse for DP (age and memory), but Marvin is younger (I know is`nt everybody).

Afternoon tea was taken in Boroughbridge, guess Morrisons ?, where Dave Watson declined to join us citing a dinner going cold.

Nonsense quipped Marvin he just does not want the company of con men, who then contacted The Curious Table to confess our sins, and offer a bank transfer of money, the manager was quite relaxed about and called off the manhunt. Payment will be made on a next visit. Fantastic weather for the last day of September with mileages over 60. Dave P







Wednesday Ride

Good to welcome more new cyclists to Wheel Easy and on what promised to be a fine day. Richard, Lesley and Stewart had been abandoned by their group who have gone off to Majorca so they were very welcome to join us in what turned out to be a spectacular day and an equally spectacular ride. Note that we heard through the grapevine that it was torrential rain in Majorca! Colin mentioned Greygarth Monument and a first café stop at the newly extended GT's at Risplith. Stewart was helped back on the road with a running repair to his broken chain (always good to have people who know what they are doing on the ride).

After some decent climbing more was to come as we scaled Grantley, onwards and upwards to the village of Dallow which had a sizeable church for a now tiny village. We parked the bikes up and walked up to Greygarth Monument, where the views were fabulous and well worth the walk. Colin then led us to Masham which we thought was just around the corner but more climbing, crossing Grewelthorpe Moor, on to Warthermarske (what a wonderful name) and in to a sunkissed Masham square which smelt distinctly of the recently held Sheep Fair!

After lunch we decided that at 2.45 we would make the speedy trip home via Nutwith and the fast run down from Grewelthorpe to Ripon. Here our group which had kept together suddenly fragmented, but trust everyone made their way home after a wonderful day of cycling. One of the best. Thanks Colin for the route and to everyone for their good company. 56 miles. Gia





