

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Ride report to follow.

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

The weather forecast was reasonable for the day, with light northerly winds. Eight takers for the *Whateverers* today, making ten with Geraldine and me. We decided that was small enough for one group, and set off up Leadhall Lane towards Rossett and the Squinting Cat, Beckwithshaw and up Norwood Lane to Little Alms Cliff. The wind direction meant that the haul up to the car park at Stainburn Woods was noticeably easier than usual. Photo at the car park (for some reason, we always take a photo there...) and then down towards the B6451, but taking the deviation right and bearing left along the little road past the farm. A large-ish farm truck was coming the other way, and was not taking any prisoners. Right past the Sun Inn and then second left down the newly-tarmacked small road to Fewston Bents and Cobby Syke and up to the busy A59. Along Meagill Lane past Fewston Cemetery and right through the barriered road which must have something to do with Menwith Hill. We turned right towards the Golf Balls and past the Camp. At some point along the road down towards Birstwith Alison and Michael decided to take a break-away group a slightly different route to Hampsthwaite. This group encountered an excitable bullock/heifer on the road which had escaped from its field (and in the very same field was a woman with a dog who was seeking protection from the aforesaid bovine, even though there were loads of other bovines in the field...). The group stopped, but a horse and rider coming towards them on the other side of the bovine somehow provided a route past. Both groups met up at Sophie's, which was heaving. Suitably refreshed, we went back up Clint Bank Road and through Hollybank Woods and on to the Greenway. About 25 miles. Joe



Wednesday Ride

The early morning cold temperature had clearly bought out the winter gear (although hard man Phil was still in his shorts!) and there was a smaller number than usual as we assembled at Hornbeam.

The organised Wanderers were ready to go and the two hardy souls on the Long Ride had set off as the 10 riders left agreed a 'Tree Ride' to admire the Autumnal colours. This translated into a ride to Thorp Perrow Arboretum via Fountains Abbey.

We made our way via the Stray and the Greenway (where we admired the new views following the logging activity) and then via Markington to Fountains Abbey and the lower cafe.

The Deer herd were spread out across the Park and there were some magnificent specimens on show and being admired by a large number of onlookers (the deer I mean not the people on bikes!)

After coffee we made our way into Ripon and then on a route via Hutton Conyers, Wath, Carthorpe and Snape to Thorp Perrow.

By now the sun had come out and lunch was taken outside on the picnic benches (although no layers were removed!) to allow us to enjoy the lovely colours of the amazing number of different trees.

Having spurned the opportunity of the Halloween Trail we looked for the quick route back and so we set off via Well, Wath and West Tanfield back into Ripon. With the wind behind us we got good time and then took the Littlethorpe option back to Harrogate.

The entry into Knaresborough via Bond End was hairy as we were getting into the school traffic and it's the first time I have enjoyed getting to the Knaresborough hill and the cycle lane for a while!

With non-beard Colin leaving us to get the train back to Leeds from Gainsborough and Monica and friend Imogen heading off down Bogs Lane the remaining few made their way back to Hornbeam after a great ride in weather conditions which improved throughout the day.

56 miles that achieved our aim of seeing lots of different autumn colours that will only get better over the next few weeks. A great ride in good company – I hope our guest Imogen enjoyed it and wasn't too tired on her return. Kevin D





Wednesday Long Ride

With a forecast of sunshine, two riders Peter R and David R set off for Masham where we enjoyed coffee and beans on toast. Refuelled we then went via Leighton Reservoir to Lofthouse, a spectacular route with great views to the east coast. After another coffee stop at Pateley Bridge we returned home via Brimham Rocks. A great day out with lots of sunshine. David R

EGs' Ride

The weather looked better than the forecast and indeed it turned out that way.

The prospect of cycling in beautiful autumn weather was probably in the minds of the thirteen riders we had at Low Bridge. The destination chosen was Easingwold, the route being quite flat and it gave the choice of a straight return or an option of extending the route. At Aldwark bridge it was planned to have a photo for John R's calendar, i.e. bikes on bridges, a good subject in good weather, however after a long wait ??, the choreography on the bridge and perhaps the photographer having fallen asleep, the results were not that good. At the other side of the bridge Theo (very wisely) decided to return via Boroughbridge, but he was in good hands being accompanied by four riders.

The remaining eight continued to Easingwold and the Curious Table Cafe for tea, coffee and great slabs of bread. Here a debt was paid on behalf of two EG riders and the wanted poster was then taken off the wall. After which Nick returned home via Boroughbridge and a magnificent seven comprising Bill (on blistering form) Colin, Dave P, Eric, Ian, Peter J and Rob headed for Huby and Sutton-on-the-Forest, it was here the leader trying to avoid using the B1363 to Wigginton cross roads tried to pick up on an old Audax route, however memory and eyesight being failing we came back on to the B1363 sooner than he wanted.

Then on to Shipton and cross the railway bridge, still in the process of repair and on to Benningborough. However the "expletive" bridge was closed again to pedestrians and bike pushers, so all of Gia's good work in getting it opened to pedestrian's and bike pushers has been reversed, how legal is this? It was 2:00pm on a warm sunny afternoon and there was no evidence of any work being carried at that time, what's going on?.

The detour then had to be taken up the A19, a dangerous road for cyclists, were we riding in single file when nearly blown away by a very large arctic lorry towing a large trailer passing to

close to us. At Newton-on-Ouse Bill decided to head for Aldwark Bridge and home, so DP not liking riders riding solo joined him (well that`s my excuse).

The rest going for a Home Farm Shop afternoon tea, which I bet was delicious.

Another good ride in this wonderful Autumn weather, mileage in the mid 60`s but some will have done more. Dave P.

