

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Wanderers'/Poddlers' Ride

Today we were Wandlers. The gentle, shortish 24 mile ride lent itself to Wanderer and Poddler alike. So, in the absence of La Grande Dame des Poddleurs, we all took it upon ourselves to look after and encourage The Lone Poddler amongst us. Perhaps we all needed a bit of looking after our leader took us down at least two mucky routes.

So from Bilton Lane to Arkendale via the AWFUL Beryl Burton route (is it getting worse?), we went to Coneythorpe and Goldsborough to a riverside café in Knaresborough.

At this Season of Conspicuous Consumption the call had gone out for suitable embellishments to bike and/or rider. This was heeded by about half of the twelve riders (and we know where the others live).

As we turned into Old Scriven we were nearly blinded by the light. Was it the Heavenly Host? We were just about to get down on our knees when someone said, "It's only Steve!" And there the lad stood, today's brilliant sun reflecting off a bonce resplendent in tinsel. Adding to this on his rack was a Santa complete with its own Teddy, so he won the Embellishment Prize.

A frabjous day to ease us into Christmas. Paul B





Wednesday Ride

Well, it was the nicest morning for what felt like weeks, and not absolutely everybody had to be home early for domestic duties, so we set off with "the herd" up past Little Almscliffe just to test the wind strength, which turned out to be quite OK. So Colin and Charlie left the group and took a left at Menwith Hill.....John said he would meet us in "Teacups" which we found closed, and we never saw John again.....sorry, John!

From Menwith, past the old Wireless Station to Duck Street, then first right, a lovely run down with Nidderdale spread out in the sunshine before us, left at the bottom then right to pass Thornthwaite Church, and down past Yorke's Folly to Pateley....where Teacups was shut, but we found an alternative in a square off the High Street.

Back through Glasshouses, Smelthouses, up through Brimham for the marvellous run down to Ripley and back to Harrogate just after 2 o'clock. Colin T

John's extra bit: I went an uppy-downy route Yorke's Folly and down to Tea Cups but, as Colin said, it was closed. So I tried the cafe near to the garage, but no Colin or Charlie. Rather than tour all the cafes I stopped there for a bacon sandwich. Musing where to go next, it was too nice to go home so I headed off to Lofthouse where a right turn took me to the top and great views in every direction. I did wonder whether to go on to Masham but decided to retrace my steps back to the cafe for lemon meringue turbo food. Then off up Yorke's Folly and a great ride home. 61 miles, 5500ft of climb, sun all day. Sorry I didn't find the others but a great day. John



Wednesday Long Ride

Five set off for the long ride with Thorp Perrow in mind, with the aim of staying off the moor tops and heading north-south to avoid tackling the SW winds. Having chilled off on the Greenway, the climb to Drovers was welcomed as a warm-up. It had been just 4C at Nidd bridge - not what we are accustomed to! Fountains gave us the first route conflag: pressing on got the vote rather than an early coffee stop. It soon became clear that we were heading into the gravitational field of Masham, which ultimately proved irresistible. Muddy lanes and large puddles along the way gave some of us damp feet and ensured that another bike wash was waiting at home. Early lunches were taken at Johnny Baghdad's, over which conversations ranged from the fun we used to have starting cars on cold mornings in the old days, through the demise of the British motorcycle industry and then to the reasons why talented female teenage cyclists lose interest just as things get interesting. Thorp Perrow was honoured in the road sign which we passed on the way to Snape, where an impromptu sprint took place - too many calories at lunch? At Carthorpe we turned into the wind, but by this time it seemed to be easing off and we made Ripon with ease and plenty of daylight left. At Bishop M, Phil S and Peter R left the group to head into the wind to Drovers and western districts, while Lesley and Richard S and I followed the usual route to Knaresborough. One of the EG Daves met us at Sandy Bank and relayed the news that the Sun Parlour had closed, hopefully taking a well-earned break after all their hard work feeding cycling clubs and many other community groups over the past month. A last-minute Christmas card drop rounded off the ride for me, leaving a day of enjoyable winter sunshine, plus grand views to the Moors and the Pennines to reflect on while travelling home. Mileage: 56 or so; ascent c2800 ft if the computer can be believed. Terry Smith

EGs' Ride

It was the last Wednesday before Christmas, or as the Grandchildren used to say only two sleeps to Christmas. The forecast was good and we had thirteen riders at Low Bridge.

Due to the commitments of some riders it was going to be a ride of two halves, so get to a cafe quickly and take it from there. So the old faithful Morrison's at Boroughbridge was chosen (some groans) but who else would take thirteen, it's unlucky.

You will notice the photo of the EG's in front of a sign which says "seasoned" well we have been and despite the rain we have not rotted away. The Occaney downhill remains a bit of a blur, probably because the writer was confused by the sunshine, but I am sure Bob, Eric, Dave Watson would have been there (apologies to people missed out).

In Morrison's the Wheel-Easy 13 were joined by 30/40 riders from York CTC Wednesday Wheelers including Keith and Anne Benton (see photo) who sent their good wishes to Malcolm and Gia and all of Wheel-Easy. Who but Morrison's could have catered for this number of cyclists?

After caffeine and calories and festive fun, Bob, Dave Watson, Norman and Terry W took a shorter route, the remaining nine headed for Cundall (missed again Bob) Topcliffe, Rainton, Wath and finally Ripon. Now Spa Gardens Cafe is closed and Ripon cafes were full, so what remained but Wetherspoons! However the EGs had some difficulties finding their way in?, difficulties finding their way in to a pub?, we must be losing our faculties, so if you find any old faculties around they belong to the EGs.

After some magnificent repasts, which Marvin declined and departed, it was on to Studley Park, except for Dave Wilson who dined but returned via Knaresborough.

Fountains Cafe was bypassed unfortunately for Roy who thought it was going to be our pudding stop. Then it was up and down to Ripley returning via the Greenway.

By now it was dark, (quite unusual, but I think? think? we had Colin P, Dave P, Eric, Peter B, Peter J, Roy and Theo in Ripley.

The total mileage home would have been over 50 miles.

Now for Theo who is recovering from illness this is PDG and he certainly gets the "man of the match award". It was a great ride in great weather, and the company well!!!!!!.. mind you the jokes were rubbish. Dave P.



