

Sunday, April 10, 2016

## Wheel Easy Ride Report 518

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### Short Ride

16 riders today set off in sunshine for a nice change.

The ride passed uneventfully from Hornbeam through the Showground, the cycle path at the tip through to Morrison's and Abbey Road at Knaresborough. From Abbey Road we cycled through Manse Lane and on to the A59 and on the roundabout at the ring road met a long line of traffic held up at the traffic lights close to the Flaxby turnoff. No-one could quite work out why traffic lights were needed as no actual road work was being done!

We turned for Flaxby and rode to Coneythorpe where Sarah and John were involved in a bit of cycle maintenance. Photos taken and on we went to Arkendale, Ferrensby and Farnham. At Farnham it was decided that we could all make it to Ripley for our cafe stop and cycle back via the Greenway. It was on this stretch of road that Skipton Lynda came a clatter and cut the palms of her hands. She bravely carried on after some Heath Robinson first aid to Ripley. Unfortunately, there was no way to clean her wounds properly and eventually she had to resort to a visit to A & E.

We stopped at the Boar's Head for refreshments of varying kinds and this was where Monica locked her bike but could not find the key. Eventually she was able to contact her husband to come and pick her up. We left her enjoying the sunshine in the beer garden.

No further problems encountered and the group split after the Greenway to go our various ways. Around 26 miles ridden on a nice flat ride. Jean B





### **Medium Ride (1)**

An inviting, bright, sharp spring day brought out a large, lively peloton which split into two fairly large groups. I had fourteen, which were in fact thirteen but, in case anyone was superstitious, I brought along my imaginary friend. Bet not many of you have ever seen a six foot rabbit on a bicycle before?

Good and swift progress was made to Great Ouseburn, despite some members professing to be variously tired/old/injured and we even picked up extra riders en route in the shape of Nicky and Graham who kindly siphoned off a cohort to ease road rage and cafe shock. We waved goodbye to an EG Dave who diverted off towards Aldwark Bridge, York and beyond (I think he was one of the tired ones!) and we continued eagerly along, destination Tancred Farm Cafe and Shop. This was a first visit for many and we rate it as excellent in all respects. They tactfully keep the farm animals out of sight. I don't know about you but I find it quite difficult sinking my teeth into a bacon sandwich in the presence of one of its descendants.

After a jolly game of "Remembering Everyone's Name", Mike, Debby, Janet, Bridget, Sally, Stephen, Nicky, Graham, Tim, another Dave, Andy, Jackie and moi dragged ourselves away from the comfort of the cafe, took off a layer of clothing and continued our happy way through Whixley, Cattal, Hunsingore, Walshford, Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot, shedding people along the way, back to Hornbeam. A great, convivial day out in the easy relaxed style that is Wheel Easy! Helen T



### **Medium Ride (2)**

What a great day! Gentle breeze, wispy high cirrus clouds and brilliant sunshine. Ideal for a bumble, piddle or steady bike ride.

Eleven riders left Hornbeam Park, becoming entangled with Medium Plus groups and other Wheel Easyites around Low Bridge before, remarkably, a group of sixteen arrived at Arkendale. Thence to Great Ouseburn for a rest, chat, check time of day etc. This took quite a while.

At Tancred Farm we met up with the other Medium Ride group but found enough room to join them in the cafe - just! There were 29 Wheel Easy riders in there by my count and we had already lost Gordon and Alison.

In Whixley we detoured through the Whixley Gates housing development, previously the site of the Whixley Mental Hospital. It had originally been built in 1905 as the Yorkshire Inebriates Reformatory before becoming a home for general waifs and strays and then a mental hospital until the 1990's.

We also detoured through Hunsingore Village before trying to gain entrance to Ribston Park for a scenic short cut to Little Ribston. Alas, we were thwarted by a locked side gate and reverted to the prescribed route. It was

one of those days that some of us at least wanted to stay out and play for as long as possible. Max left for the joys of All Terrain Cycles in Wetherby and our group began to split up in Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot before arriving, all too soon for this correspondent, back at Hornbeam Park. Helen had only been waiting for 45 minutes.....

Many thanks to Justin for such diligent back marking and thanks to Jill for the photographs. Keith T



### **Medium Plus Ride (1)**

Twelve of us determined on a relaxed grazing theme for the days ride. Leader refreshment choices - Stop one Ripon Cafe Nero, flat white plus toasted tea cake, excellent. Stop two Market Square cafes at Masham, tuna jacket potato, flapjack and tea, good to eat but a bit chilly sat outside. Stop three, Fountains Visitor Centre, tea and scone, warming and refreshing. We filled in the time between cafe stops with a brilliant ride in the Spring Sunshine along the lanes of North Yorkshire. 58 glorious miles. Martin W.





### **Medium Plus Ride (2)**

Having late in the day offered to lead the ride, when I arrived there were two leaders, including me, so it was decided that the lycra clad supermen with bikes from manufacturers which would fatally dent my meagre bank balance, set off in one group (probable average speed in the high teens), while my group in slightly less lycra set off at a more mundane pace (probable average speed in high single figures).

Beautiful day, blue sky, sunshine, next to no wind and just the right temperature. The route was Hornbeam, Bishop Monkton, Ripon, Snape (coffee stop at Arboretum), Masham, Ripon (coffee stop Spa Gardens), Fountains Abbey, Ripley, and Hornbeam. I was supposed to lead, however most of this was done by Andrew's phone GPS and the only complaint against it was that it took us up to the Himalayan Gardens and the associated hill that goes with the name.

Someone must have leaked our route to an ancient sports car rally club, because we kept getting overtaken and re-overtaken by these old vehicle right up until the Arboretum stop, and we were left gasping in the wake of layer of oil and soot infested exhaust fumes. I wondered who was keeping the better average speed them or us.

The daffodils were out in abundance and it was a superb ride (two coffee stops, they might rescind my Yorkshireman membership (never spent so much!). I'll go with the now reasonably trusted GPS and say mileage 64 (so not really a medium-plus, more like a long-less!). Glyn A



### **Long Ride**

Six opted for the 'long' ride in bright sunshine, albeit with a chill in the air. A flat, gentle start along a busy Greenway was followed by progressively hillier terrain. At Ilton we noted a campaign to save the local phone box (apparently they can be bought for a £1, but with the obligation to maintain them).

Two more climbs took us to Healey and on to Leighton Reservoir and over to Lofthouse (snow in the distance on Wherside?), accompanied by participants in the Ilkley Jubilee car rally (why are MGBs always red?).

How Stean cafe for lunch. The daffodils from Lofthouse down to Pateley were spectacular (no need to go to Snape if you're a fan). At Bewerley we stopped for a route conference, but Richard P sailed on towards Yorke's Folly, undeterred by dropping his chain. The rest opted for Brimham Rocks, Burnt Yates, Hampsthwaite and Penny Pot, with each hill sapping the legs further. 57 miles with 5000 feet of climbing, just about allowing the advertised description of 'fairly hilly'. Richard L

