

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Four J's (Jo, Jen, 2xJane) plus Monica, set off for Beckwithshaw, then steadily climbed up to Little Almscliffe. After a breather to take in the view, we descended, passing the Sun Inn, and then climbing to the end of Penny Pot Lane. After a brief discussion it was decided to ride along to the army college and turn left, over the main road and swoop down towards Hampsthwaite, but turning towards Killinghall to sample the delights that the ladies in Ripley church had to offer. Various cakes, teas, coffees and cheese and onion pies were enjoyed, and then we had a steady ride back down the Greenway.

It was lovely to have new members with us to swell our numbers. They all said they had enjoyed their experience, so we hope to see them all again next week. 25 miles ridden. JA

Wednesday Wanderers Ride

There were enough Wanderers gathered to make 2 good groups today so Liz F headed for the hills (and Otley) with one group and the remainder of us, 13 in all, made our way to Fountains via the Greenway and Scarah Bank, playing leapfrog with the long ride along the way. The temptations of the café at Fountains got the better of Joe, Geraldine and Glyn whilst the remaining 10 of us kept the motivation of coffee and cakes ahead of us and continued to Ripley via Ripon, Bishop Monkton, Markington and Shaw Mills. John, Alison and Gordon made their own way home whilst 7 of us enjoyed coffee and cakes in the sunshine outside Ripley Church. 34 miles in very pleasant weather and company. Thanks to Steve and Keith for backmarking. Dave G





Wednesday Wanderers Ride (Group 2).

The Wednesday Wanderers were leaderless this morning, a few suggestions of Ripon, Brimham, Fountains and Otley were mooted. The other group of Wanderers were heading for Ripon. I was asked to lead a ride to Otley, the one which was postponed due to torrential rain which is a usual occurrence on my rides. David, Al, Andrew, Helen and Keith joined me and Andrew was appointed navigator, I knew where we were going, but just in case!! Following Alison's Sunday ride to Otley, the 'four Munroe's' I decided to do the route the other way round which is my usual preference, I never like to be conventional or flat!! The six of us departed Hornbeam and we were soon up the road and heading for Stainburn Forest. No major dissent and five still remaining with me as we turned down the track through the forest, which after much recall and mirth of the last track we cycled on the away day, of a vertical descent down the mountainside on a deeply rutted track, this was a doddle!! The views were glorious as we rode along the ridge dodging sheep and muck through the gates as the day started to warm nicely. Soon we were downhill and up dale towards Leathley then towards Farnley and into Otley. Cockpit Farm is closed on Wednesday so we headed for the riverside café and enjoyed coffee, tea and

cakes as it was too early for lunch. After a discussion about French loaves and needing strong thighs to hover, decided it was time to move on before we lowered the tone completely. Helen became the official photographer and decided to take a photo of us leaving the café, but a nice man with a big dog, was cajoled into taking a photo of the six of us. It was getting warm as we set off up the road to Askwith and the long climb up to the top where another photo stop was called by the official photographer Helen, by the road signs to prove we had reached the top. After another tough uphill and then a downhill and maybe there was another uphill we reached Timble. There we found the road across the reservoir was closed, but strung across the road was four mothers with prams as big as tractors heading up the closed road towards us. Keith was valiantly sent ahead to ask the mothers if we could get across the reservoir. Keith waved us forward and we swooped down the road to find it was completely shut, but we could go through the gap onto the dam wall and get through the wood and grass track to the other side. WE rides are now off roading due to closure of roads. As we wandered into the trees the six of us spread out looking lost, and finally followed two walkers through on to the grassy bank and strolled through the grass to the gate at the other side. Reaching the road there was another sign saying the road ahead was closed. Nothing deterred us as we followed the diversion to Fewston. A discussion took place was it 'a bacon buttie at Fewston' or 'tea and cake' at Ripley church. David swung the vote and we decided a bacon buttie was called for at Fewston. Al had to get home so he set off alone and the five of us tucked into delicious bacon butties. Helen bought some heavy tatties and Keith decided she needed to carry them as they had to practice for their cycling holiday in the Scottish borders and he was going to cook them, so it was only fair she carried them, oh domestic bliss!! Dicing with death on the short stretch up the A59 we turned down towards Menwith and waited for the barrier to lift, which it only lifted after five of us struggled through the side gate. Onwards we cycled, down into Hampswaite, then up Lund Lane, along the Greenway and home. Glorious weather, views, hills and good company on a rare dry sunny day. 38 miles wonderful!!! EF.

EG's Ride

We had eleven riders at Low Bridge, and the forecast was good.

Last week's ride was to Wetherby so the Purple Partridge at Ricall was chosen for our first coffee stop.

The men's downhill at Occaney was won by ?? (memory lapse) either Nick or Marvin, with Phil coming second. Norman left us at Brafferton to get home early for a night out the town with his visiting brother Stewart (watch out Harrogate).

Phil rang the Purple Partridge to warn them of our intended visit, only to be told they were closed, and were moving to another location, but where ??? we were not informed.

The ten then split in to a fast and slower group to take our break in Easingwold (two groups to prevent cafe shock).

At the Curious Table the fast group ate inside, and the slower group outside (poor souls) but the sun shone on us (does it not always shine on the righteous?).

After which Theo, who had had a good ride in at a good pace, wisely decided not to push it and decided to return home, he was very kindly accompanied by Bill.

The remaining eight then headed for Coxwold via Oulton, on to Carlton Husthwaite, crossing the A19 (quite easy for a change) and on to Hutton Sessay.

At Little Sessay Dave Watson suggested a little loop to avoid returning via Thornton Bridge, and why not, the weather was better than the forecast and the team was in good spirits, which even a puncture could not dampen (a quick impressive repair Geoff).

Dave took us on a nice little detour on a minor road (quite minor in its width, cars could pass us, just , but tractors no way) this avoided passing through Dalton Village which can be busy from the industrial estate and on to Topcliffe, Cundall, Norton le Clay and Boroughbridge.

At Boroughbridge Dave W, Nick, Phil and Terry (25% Dave's) headed for home and Dave Peatfield, Dave Preston, Geoff and Marvin (50% Dave's) took afternoon tea in Morrisons.

Then back home in the glorious sunshine.

It had been great ride in good weather , a nice little detour (thanks Dave W) and for Geoff his second EG's ride the longest so far, which did not worry him in the least so we all look forward to seeing more of Geoff on our rides.

Mileage anywhere between high 50's and low 60's. Dave P





Wednesday Ride

Lots of sun, no showers and a great turn out for all the Wednesday rides. A huge posse set off towards Ripley and Fountains and those of us who had to be back for various reasons, Gia, Malcolm, Paul and Charlie dived off at Drovers to do the Markington loop and then indulge in the cafe by the lake at Fountains. Return route via Burton Leonard, the Mountgarret estate and the Greenway. Lovely ride, first Wed ride for our founder for quite a while on a good old Spa bike. 35 miles. no pics, Gia.

Medium Plus Ride

With a bright morning and the prospect of a warm sunny day it was quickly decided that Masham should be our destination with the only difficulty being deciding on a route.

Colin and James came up with a proposal to go the hilly way and ride down into Masham from Ilton and, with that agreed 14 riders set off including a few 'returners' after periods away from riding for various reasons which was nice to see.

We set off at a good pace along the Greenway, Ripley, Drovers and on to Fountains where Paul, Malcolm, Gia and Charlie broke away for coffee and a return home as they had prior commitments later in the day. The remainder set off via Aldfield, Kirby Malzeard and on towards Masham. We were enjoying the views of the Cleveland Hills when Sue C had a major chain problem and we had to stop as Colin set to work to sort it out- which, of course, he did.

Back on the road we made good time into Masham where we had an al fresco lunch stop at Johnny Bagdad's and talked about the route home.

With the weather still good we spurned the short route home and set to Ripon via Snape, Wath and Norton Conyers and a second stop in Ripon Spa Gardens for tea and cake. Sue left us to get back as she was off to the cinema but everyone else stayed the course.

Feeling revived we made the decision for the 'usual route' home via Littlethorpe, towards Knaresborough. Peter left us to strike off home to Burton Leonard All was going well until we came across a Police road closure which caused a brief diversion to get round it.

Into Knaresborough and some tired legs climbed the hill and then free wheeled into Starbeck and back to Hornbeam after a full days riding.

It was a great day for a long ride and we duly obliged- 60 miles and 800m of climbing with nothing but sunshine all day.

Thanks to Colin and James for the route and a special mention to Sarah C who was completing her first long ride since October and who kept smiling nearly all of the day (we forgive you about Knaresborough Hill!). Also good luck to Sue Couture who is riding the Prudential 100 on Sunday.

Thanks to everyone who came along for the great company on a day it was a joy to be out on a bike!
Kevin





Long Ride

Despite several regulars being away this week, we still managed to field a respectable six for the long ride on a rather sticky morning. The call was for the Ilkley church cafe and then to have a good old think! Fewston and Timble got the nod over the fish farm route and soon we were "powering" up to Little Alms Cliff and down to Swinsty. Road closures abound this year and we hit our first just past Fewston church. But pedestrians had been catered for and we got through and headed for the dam. This time it was really was closed – as a huge crane in the middle of the dam road testified. A proposal to head to the A59 up Busky Dike Lane was met by splutterings from the group! The alternative past Fewston Farm Shop cafe proved more popular with us and a small posse of riders sponsored by "Feather" who passed us in great haste, clearly heading for distant parts. But, they were only indulging in a cafe sprint to the farm shop! The Meagill Lane turn off A59 was negotiated safely thanks to a lorry which slowed and created space for us – thank you sir. Then it was the Duck Street slog into the stiffish breeze, which brought some compensation by reducing the humidity and giving a fresher feel, as well as some splendid long views to the west and the east. Pausing at the Greenhow turn on B6265, sharp-eyed John S spotted an irregularity in Richard L's rear tyre. Limping on to Stump Cross cafe, it was clear that the outer casing had worn through after all the thrashings it had endured from Richard's climbing. Various creative options were chewed over, including a "double Colgate", before a call was made for the broom wagon, giving Richard time for more refreshments. The wind ruled out going any further west than we needed, so at Fancarl we turned towards Bolton Abbey via Barden Tower along roads rather busy with riders doing exactly what we were doing. This was the preamble to Langbar, which was its usual challenging self, as our photos of two of us re-charging at the top show. John left us on the descent to Ilkley for a crack at Norwood Bank, while the four remaining called in at Christ Church cafe for lunch during which Phil went into confessional mode over a banana cake failure. Cow and Calf kicked off the post-lunch ride to Otley, Farnley and Leathley, where we decided that a photo would be a good idea. Cote de Stainburn, Almscliff Crag and Rigton Hill were the finale for the day which encompassed most of the things we keep coming back for – great scenery, great views, some challenges - physical and logistical, nice weather and cheerful, adaptable company. C 57 miles and c 5000ft climbed. Terry Smith



