

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Two Poddlers, Jayne and I, were joined by Joe, Geraldine, Paul B and a returning member of Wheel Easy for a steady ride to Wetherby via Rudding and Spofforth. We enjoyed the delights of North Street Deli, while Paul told us about the 'widely known fact' concerning badgers mentioned in the Bible! Needless to say no one had ever heard of this. However we had heard of the Apocrypha, which had passed Paul by! Onwards and upwards we went to Sicklinghall, stopping to take in the view before arriving at Kirkby Overblow. The descent of Walton Head Lane was truly lovely owing to the new road surface. We turned to return home via Burn Bridge, leaving Paul to continue along the main road to view the new building work. Thanks for the company, and well done to Jayne who grits her teeth and keeps behind me even up the hills. 21 miles Jen A



Wednesday Wanderers' Ride (Short)

Liz F had planned an epic Wanderers ride today. So seven of us opted for the Shorter Wander led by 'volunteer' Dennis. We faithfully followed Dennis up hill and down dale, through Birstwith, up Stripe Lane and along to Brimham. Here Dennis and Steve decided to make their way home. 5 of us set off with idea of heading to Fountains. Then, G&T's was mentioned and suddenly the pace quickened and before we knew where we were we were tucking into cake, bacon sandwiches, and ice-cream. After that, we progressed back to Harrogate at a slower pace, but in time for our various afternoon commitments. Thanks to everyone for a pleasant ride. Alison N

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride (Long)

Lots of cyclist gathered at Hornbeam this morning as the day looked set for being dry. I organised two Wanderers rides, one for the longer route led by me, the shorter route to Brimham Rocks and Fountains Abbey led by Dennis and Steve, my thanks to them for leading. Ten people joined my ride, including Angela, Malcolm and one other, (sorry names elude me at times), who decided to try the Wanderers ride, probably had not heard of my reputation for 'hills' apart from Glynn who also joined us. Everyone democratically agreed to the planned route and Andrew was again appointed navigator in case my directions went awry. Leaving Hornbeam it was not too warm as we cycled towards the Greenway and onwards to Ripley. Mike decided to inspect the curb and toppled over, luckily only sustained a grazed knee, but otherwise was unhurt. Dennis and his group caught us up at Ripley and they were fine with the shorter route as they waved us goodbye. Malcolm said he was going to be slower and that he knew the route and would follow us and not to worry if he got behind. This is the Wanderers, we stick together! Angela stayed with him and we waited for them at various stops to make sure they were okay. Though he was never really far behind he was very determined those hills would not get the better of him. On through Hollybank Wood, up the steep incline to Clint Bank, where my gearing would not go

into low gear for climbing. Glynn looked at the gears scratched his head, Malcolm looked at the gears, we turned the bike upside down to no avail. Malcolm declared he was not very good with cycle repairs unless they were simple, after a debate it was decided best not to let Glynn go into full cycle mechanic mode, As long as the bike went forward, I would stay in 2nd gear and this would give me a good excuse if I needed to walk up the steep hills. (Glynn your diagnosis was right the cable was trapped!!) On down to Birstwith along the road to Darley and Darley Head. A brief stop at Stocks Green, then a lovely ride along the lane to Thornthwaite, the views were stunning, it is one of my favourite valleys. A steep climb up the hill and then down, then up again as we gained height, we noticed the heather was beginning to blossom purple and stopped at the top of the hill to admire the vistas, Coldstones Cuts was clearly visible. Angela became the official photographer and took the photos as we stood and took our time looking at the views all round. Unfortunately Mike, Andrew and David had gone ahead and suddenly realised that we were not with them and wondered where we had got to. Andrew decided to ride back up the steep hill to find us but luckily not far as we came over the top towards him. Glynn whizzed down Yorke's Folly like a streak of lightning, shouting 'just go for it'. Maris and I reckoned he had an advantage with less hair making him more streamlined than us!! Angela had never been down Yorke's Folly and was amazed how steep it was. Malcolm very gallantly shepherded her down and we all reached the bottom safely. It had been decided to go to Teacups in Pateley Bridge as all those hills had made us hungry. After drinks, bacon butties, scones, ginger sponge and custard, Mike left first as he needed to get back early, then Glynn and David also made an early getaway leaving seven of us to finish the ride. Along the valley bottom from Beverley then up to Wilsill and then more steep hills hit us, but we all made steady progress. Malcolm was very impressive, he made all the hill climbs without getting off. Brimham Rocks came into view and it was decided that as we had stopped at Teacups we would miss out Fountains and head to Ripley. At Ripley, Angela and Malcolm decided they deserved an ice cream and stopped, the rest of us headed down the Greenway to Harrogate. I left them at Bilton to go to Veloheads to see if I could get my gears repaired, that's another story!! A beautiful cycle ride over the hills, through the moorland and valleys of the Dales around 38 miles approx., around 2700 feet of climbing. Liz





Wednesday Ride

On a day when the forecast promised well the Wednesday Group were a bit more organised than usual, but still managed to be last away from Hornbeam. Eleven of us set off to try and make it finally to Thirsk via Easingwold, Coxwold and Kilburn and after a slight contretemps with a motorist at Aldwark Bridge we rolled into Easingwold and descended on the Curious Kitchen. Having almost cleared them of the date and lemon slice and topped up the caffeine we headed north out of the town to follow Colin T's loop through Coxwold, past Byland Abbey and through the arch (see photo hopefully!) along the delightful lane below the White Horse and into Kilburn for yet another photo shoot of the White Horse. Lunch was taken at a very good caravan site cafe just outside Bagby where the sign in the window said "Cyclists Welcome" which was a good start. The staff were very efficient and helpful and food was excellent. Thus fortified we headed home without actually getting into Thirsk, much to Sue's disappointment, but it does give an excuse to go again. Safely across the A19 we picked up a head wind all the way through Dalton, Sessay, Thornton Bridge and into Boroughbridge and then on to Knaresborough, where yours truly was able to drop off the back and leave the others to return home up Knaresborough hill. Home before the rain after a lovely day out having covered 63 miles in good company and many thanks to Colin for his refinement of the route. James G







Wednesday Long Ride

The long ride mustered a respectable six at Hornbeam today, with the arrangement to collect two more in Knaresborough. Overnight e-mails had given two possibilities – Kiplin Hall or Castle Howard. At Piccadilly Motors Kiplin got the nod and so eight of us set forth at brisk pace to the Boroughbridge constitutional stop. Across familiar territory with golden fields just harvested, some route variations were possible, but all was well until we met a farmer cutting his hedges back in either a very late spring or a very early autumn cut. Some dismounted and checked their tyres while others trusted in Schwalbe's publicity blurb. David was the unlucky one today: a thorn got through just as we were in Sowerby, only 5 minutes from the scheduled coffee stop. With a 15 minute start on us, the rest of the group were well into elevenses by the time David and I were ordering ours. With just time to wolf down a scone and too-hot tea, we were off through Thirsk towards Northallerton, past the NY Police HQ at Newby Wiske – currently for sale, pending negotiations for a new location. Past Warlaby/Northallerton, we collected our third Wiske of the day; Danby this time, with its pub The White Swan made famous by Wainwright's acerbic comments about the landlord, while charting out the Coast-to-Coast walk. The roads leading to lunch were a revisit of the 100-mile ride in June and to complete the reprise we opted for the Lakeside Country Cafe, where service was swift and space was ample in contrast to our frenetic experience in June. An excellent choice on the menu saw two of our number testing out a theory that black pudding has all the right ingredients for a cyclist. With almost 50 miles in the legs at lunchtime, a more direct route was plotted for the return. After a course correction kindly supplied by Lesley in Kirkby Fleetham, Leeming Bar proved busy but soon the A1(M) was crossed and familiar lanes through Carthorpe and Kirklington appeared. As the afternoon wore on the wind, never especially helpful at any time, began to exert itself. Tiring legs kept spinning in prospect of making it to Ripon Spa Gardens cafe in time - 4.00 on the outskirts of Ripon, 4.10 at the park gates. We'd made it: the bowlers were still out, the cafe was still open for the last customers of the day, confirmed by the start of the rain forecast for 10.00 pm! Conditions got damper and damper as we progressed on autopilot back to Piccadilly where Lesley, Richard and David turned for home and another loop, while I ploughed on to a stationary Starbeck, patiently waiting for two trains. Returning to Hornbeam via the rather mucky Showground Greenway (Sustrans Rangers please note – we'll be back there before long) brought proceedings to a close after 86 miles of steady lowland riding. Thank you to all for keeping up the tempo and our spirits too.

Terry Smith



EGs' Ride

We had fourteen riders at Low Bridge, the forecast was good with rain only starting at 8pm, but as it became such a good day later the rain thought it would arrive early just to enjoy our company.

Just before we set off The Flying Scot developed front axle problems, Norman did not think it was worth getting up a full head of steam, so took it back to Bilton Engine Sheds.

So away went the thirteen to Taddy and the Lemon Tree Cafe, as usual grouping for safety.

Now last Wednesday "Cycle Heaven Cafe" was "Cycle Hell Cafe" as they had run out of baked beans, Dave Siswick was in shock, but he`s a tough lad and recovered sufficiently to seek out todays beans.

It was beans a-plenty today in the Lemon Tree, and five portions of beans on toast were ordered, and were met with our approval, rating 3 beans on the Siswick scale, this rates from one bean to five, depending on quality and size of portion. On leaving the cafe Dave was seen in deep conversation with the proprietress regarding the world commodity market in baked beans.

Then on to Cawood Bridge (there had been some doubts whether the bridge was open) but we crossed in grand style across the Ouse (the lowest we had seen this year).

Eric continued on the B1222 to York for a speedy return (speedy is something he does well).

The rest of us continued on to Riccall and up the cycle path to Naburn where the majority headed for Bishopthorpe and a famous five headed East to Crockey Hill and the Strawberry Fields or Scarborough? Afternoon tea was taken at Strawberry Fields, no I tell porkies (see photos). As it could not be Strawberry Fields Forever we had to leave (they were closing), but instead of retracing our route Peter B took us on a bridle path which took us over the A64 and into Fulford and the Millennium Bridge. This was a little gem with the potential to link other routes/rides or if trouble occurs on main roads.

A banana break was taken at Marston Moor Battlefield, and then it was in to the wind and some rain and head for home. It was an efficient team that took turns to push the wind and everybody benefitted, to add to what had been a great ride.

Roy`s best mileage for a while had been 50 miles, but today he got home with over 73 miles in his wheels. Congratulations Roy, from Peter B, Geoff, Terry W and Dave P.



