

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Well it was good to be back cycling in Yorkshire after 6 weeks in Suffolk. So Monica, Angela, new member Zoe and I set off for Burn Bridge, Kirby Overblow, Sicklinghall and Wetherby, where we sat in the sun outside North Street Deli enjoying coffee and teacakes. Luckily for the lady who fell down the step while exiting the café we had two medics with us, who ably assisted her and patched her up. Drama over, we continued to Kirk Deighton, Little Ribston and Knaresborough, whereupon Monica said she needed to do more mileage! So Zoe and I accompanied her to Scriven, Scotton and Ripley, returning home via the Greenway. Angela had a 'jazz piano lesson' to get to, so she left us at Knaresborough. A lovely autumn ride, in glorious sunshine, with lively conversation...what more could you ask for? Obviously we missed our leader, who is on midwife duty in Brighton. Hurry back as we are missing you! 31 miles ridden JA

Medium Ride

A small group of riders, suitably clad to face the forecast bad weather, set out for Knaresborough and on to Farnham. By the time we reached Bishop Monkton the steady, heavy rain had set in so we agreed to shorten the route through Markington, Ripley and the Greenway. Thanks to Martin, Liz and John for braving the conditions. 26 miles, back by noon. Peter

Long Ride

Despite the away day depleting our usual numbers today, the long ride still fielded nine takers with Stewart and Trish boosting our roll. Optimistic e-mails the previous day suggested a dash to Leyburn as a last hurrah before the clocks go back and rides get shortened in keeping with the daylight. Agreeing that we would only have one leader this week, we decided to give Leyburn a go. A right turn to Markington at Drovers produced the first query of the day, but the plan was to stay low and stay quick. Out through Ripon and Wath, it struck me how a familiar route in reverse can seem like a new route. Staying flat took us inevitably to the old A1 past Quernhow Cafe (RIP), now forlorn but, apparently, sold. Headwinds slowed progress up the old A1 and at Snape it was clear that Leyburn was not reachable today – Masham would have to do once again, after nearly 40 miles! Bordar's cafe, although busy, accommodated us well as we discussed the Trump/Clinton panto. Two intrepid tourers, one on a Woodrup, from Lancashire Cycle Club impressed us with their tale of derring-do: just 85 miles the previous day from Manchester to York. Lofthouse got no votes again for the post lunch caper, so we headed out past the golf course and Swinton Castle to find ourselves teetering past a hedge-cutting operation. Would anyone puncture? Sadly it was Trefor's turn today, to be further frustrated by a seized valve stem locking ring. But, the day was saved by our new companion Trish who produced an adjustable spanner to which the ring eventually surrendered. Rain showers produced the usual on-off jacket routine and induced a call for a second cafe call at Ripon Spa Gardens, justified on the grounds that it would be a delayed pudding stop from Masham. Trish and Stewart declined the puddings and headed back to Harrogate. The trip back through the Deer Park saw a mini-stampede across the road and allowed some pastoral scene photos of stags biding their time in sunlit meadows. Past How Hill the rain jacket routine started again, but soon it was the shelter of the Greenway and farewells at Bilton Lane that ended the day after 60-65 miles for most of us. Thank you to Trish and Stewart for their part in keeping the day lively. Do join us again. Our photos show us recovering at Norton Conyers, climbing up to Nutwith Common and an OAP offer at Bordar's that is un-missable – if you like sausage. Terry Smith





EGs Ride

We had eleven riders at Low Bridge, the weather forecast at 10-00am showed a solitary sun, no clouds, and no rain drops, wow, things lookin good.

So on to Tadcaster via the Via Rudgate and the Lemon Tree Cafe, Bob left us before Wetherby and Dan left us before Taddy.

If this had not happened our worry could have been nothing left for us if he arrived first.

However this worry arose again as we entered the Lemon Tree parking pitch we were greeted by a departing group of York CTC Wednesday Wheelers, friendly greetings were exchanged, and they told us they were leaving plenty of space for us, this was not our main priority which was had they left plenty of teacakes for toasting, and they had (bless em).

To illustrate the progress made on the Bridge of Tadcaster a group photo was taken in front of it.

Hordes of people in hard hats and yellow vests can be seen toiling on the bridge.

A local resident said it was planned to be finished by Christmas, and celebrations were to be made to this end. He expressed his belief that this would not occur, in terms that cannot be repeated in this report.

Bill, Norman and Terry then returned a different way, and Colin, Dave P, Dave W, Geoff, Nick and Roy headed for Bolton Percy, Colton village and Copmanthorpe with afternoon tea (or should I say bacon sarnies) taken at Cycle Heaven Cafe, a first for some.

As Roy had a heavy date this evening (no time to drool over bikes) it was back via Acomb and Rufforth with a banana and comfort break at Marston Moor.

The man of the match award definitely goes to Colin who pushed the wind and set the pace all the way back to Knaresborough.

There was science here as well, the speed "pushed" Dave P and Roy but not to exhaustion and a good time was made by all.

Thanks to all.

Also, well done Roy, who came back from a lay off, (and these get harder as one gets older) to put 60 miles under his wheels. Dave P.



Wednesday Wanderers Ride

Eleven of us set off from Hornbeam, soon to be joined by Peter on route to make it better by the dozen. Led by Gordon we set off via the Asda cycle path and then the Greenway. After a short ride on the A61, we were soon rewarded with the tranquil roads to Nidd and the Mount Garrett estate. There we came across a scene straight out of Country Life - shooters all in tweeds.

After moving cows out of our path, sir John and Gordon fell over, recovering in time to help us get our bikes over the Ford.

On to Boroughbridge where sir John and Paul B headed back.

The remaining contingent went to Lister Farm Shop for butties, scones and caffeine.

Michael then headed back the shorter way - another 'busy' retiree with time constraints.

The rest of us ambled back via Dunsforth, the only other stops being for eggs and a straw bear...!

36 miles in glorious sunshine and excellent company. Bridget





Awayday Ride

The Awayday spell worked again as 20 riders (the most ever) gathered for the ride around the Trough of Bowland in sunshine, no clouds and no wind!

We set off towards Dunsop Bridge and encountered some early climbs but also some great views and we were joined by Richard who had gone the wrong way and so was a bit late.

We soon all got into our stride and quickly reached the cafe who coped well with the sudden rush of 21 cyclists desperate for coffee. We were joined by another Colin (all the way from Skelmersdale who had driven all that way to join us). After not too long a break we were back on our bikes for some climbing action as we tackled the Trough of Bowland climb.

This is a long climb, steep in places and we soon spread out with a few touching tarmac but we all soon made the climb to the top and were rewarded with great views from the Jubilee Tower over Morecambe Bay, Lancaster and we could even see Blackpool Tower the sky was so clear.

A triumphant swoop down the road led us to Caton and then we had a short spell of riding on the main road before turning off to Wray and a deserved lunch break after nearly 30 miles.

Again the cafe managed well with the sudden onslaught as a variety of breakfasts, sandwiches, cakes and all things in between were ordered. Those who were served early amused themselves on the cycle roundabout while waiting for the others. (This was a particular favourite of Liz's who showed her prowess at pedalling it!) Then back on the bike for the home leg, Andy and Dave left us to push on and get home early. We were still a big group but we soon spread out as we encountered more climbing as we proceeded towards Settle on the

Way of the Roses route - again great views of Ingleborough and other hills as we made our along the road to Keasden Head. Eric and Peter left us to tackle Cross O'Greet but we turned off to tackle a more 'modest' climb for our final big climb of the day. This was a long climb that took us up 250 metres to the top of Bowland Knotts. By this time there were a few drops of rain in the air and it was starting to get chilly so once everyone was there we enjoyed the run down (and a few little climbs!) back to the Car Park. A good 46 miles and 1100m of climbing.

It had been another great day's riding in good conditions following a superb route. There was a great mix of riders from all sections of the club and everyone helped each other out.

It was a fine ride to end this year's Awaydays and thanks to everyone who has enjoyed the rides this year. I am sure most people have seen new areas, been challenged by the routes (hopefully not too much) and enjoyed the company. The rides will be back in 2017! Kevin











