

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Wanderers' Ride

There was a minor revolt when we got to Hornbeam: Geraldine and I had already decided that we would change and shorten the route we had put on the website, as the BBC said it was going to rain heavily from about noon, along with a strongish south-westerly wind. Andrew, Liz and others said they wanted to do the published route, so we said 'fine, go ahead'. The result was that there were ten of us who wanted to do our new shorter route to Boroughbridge via Marton-cum-Grafton. Dennis, Steve, Paul B and others said they would leave us at Arkendale in order to get back a little earlier.

We went through town and along the ASDA cycle path, mixing up with Liz and Andrew's group on the old railway path towards the Greenway. We took Bilton Lane towards Knaresborough to check out the lovely new surface, but decided against the Beryl Burton as we had heard that it was a bit tricky with wet leaves. We went down the main road and incurred the wrath of a bus driver who indicated that he thought we should be using the cycle path on the other side of the road. Along Abbey Road and the usual route to Farnham, Ferrensby and Arkendale.

We stopped outside the Blue Bell, and Geraldine did a little dance for us to celebrate the Winter Solstice (which occurred at 10.44h). This is the point in the ride when we should have taken a photo, as five of our group left us here, but maybe the dance put Geraldine off her stride, and we forgot... On over the A1 to Marton-cum-Grafton and through Aldborough to Boroughbridge. We needed to ask where the new café BEAN was, but we eventually found it, and very good it was, too. Excellent bacon-and-egg sandwich. As forecast, it started to rain at about noon, but not as heavily as forecast, and we set off back into the headwind. Michael P went back along the main road to Knaresborough, whilst the remaining four of us went through Minskip, Staveley and Farnham and up the hill in Knaresborough to Bogs Lane. About 32 miles. Joe S



A Christmas Tale

Now it came to pass that a decree was issued to change the route due to stormy times ahead. The Wanderers were revolting and said that they had to follow the star on the planned route. Andrew became the wise man as he had the GPS to lead and there was Keith and Helen (J&M), Mike the shepherd with flashing lights and music, two Liz's (sheep), John another wise man, when suddenly an angel appeared, Alison saying that she had great news for us, she had changed her mind and that she would accompany us.

The eight set forth on the damp and dusty roads towards the East where a great wonder was to behold in the stable at Tancred Farm. Down the Beryl Burton way on to Lingerfield and Arkendale, where John left to return home. Alas Liz P had a puncture on the bridge over the A1, Mike set to and soon sorted it out, tyre already inflated when the thorn in the side was spotted and extracted by Keith's tweezers. The group could have done a

full surgical operation with the assortment of tools we had. Geraldine's group stopped to offer help but we had enough wise advice from all and sundry and left us to go and register ourselves at Boroughbridge. The Angel Alison left us to return to check on Santa in his shed. Liz P tyre safely inflated the group cycled on to Great Ouseburn and into Tancred Farm where Helen was nearly delivered of a turkey as Keith made a bee line for them laid out in the manger. After beans, bacon, scrambled eggs, teacake and sausage roll we all waddled out ready to return via a different route. After a watchman safely led us across the railway line, we cycled on to Spofforth, Rudding Lane and the Showground. 36 miles approx. Liz F
Joke: How do snowmen travel around - 'they ride an icicle'
A very Happy Christmas to you all from the Wednesday Wanderers.



Wednesday Ride

To avoid the uncertainty the route is now uploaded onto the website so we all know where we are going. However, as no one fancied today's route and the leader wasn't there it was decided to abandon that idea and cycle to Pool for a coffee instead. The aim was to hopefully get home before the rain. Sue led us to Beckwithshaw then up Shaw Lane to Briscoe Ridge Lane, through Castley and onto the farm shop at Pool. Although we seemed to be cycling into the wind most of the way we didn't mind as there was no sign of the forecasted rain.

After a great deal of chair moving in the farm shop we managed to get the ten of us around a large table. After coffee we headed up the A658 for a short distance and then retraced the same route to get home. Unfortunately the rain caught up with us near Huby. Once again an enjoyable 25 mile ride in good company. Merry Christmas everyone! Paul T



Long Ride

No Terry Smith, no Richard Pugh, so yours truly was elected ride leader. The weather forecast was rain at mid-day, so a morning's ride to Tadcaster and see what happens was the agreed strategy. Initially five riders left Hornbeam but we were soon joined by Richard P. The ride to Tadcaster was at a bit circuitous at a steady pace with the wind behind us for most of the time. We stopped for refreshments at Tadcaster where Richard P partook of the Christmas pudding which looked as if it had the density of a black hole. Unfortunately when we came to leave Richard P found he had a puncture. Once the puncture was sorted we decided to head for home, bearing in mind the weather forecast, via Braham and Wetherby. Although we ran into a light shower the forecasted rain did not appear. But we did encounter a group of cyclists, going the other way, who were vaguely familiar! At Wetherby it was the parting of ways with only four riders returning via Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow. Good to get 45+ miles in at this time of the year. Peter J



EGs' Ride

Today was the Winter Solstice, from today onwards the days are going the right way, there`s positive thinking for you. We had twelve riders at Low Bridge and a full set of Dave`s, ie a Peatfield, a Preston, a Siswick, a Watson and a Wilson.

We knew it was going to be a good day when it started with mince pies, courtesy of Dave Watson and flasks from Dave Preston and Eric, containing the following, a rusty nail (whisky and Drambuie) and Kahula/Kahlua or something like that, which was a Mexican Coffee liquer, nice to drink but nicer in your coffee, no wonder us coffee drinkers thought the coffee had got better in the cafes we visited. Then it was two groups to Morrison`s Cafe in Wetherby, with us all feeling still festive from last Wednesday.

After which Rob, Nicola and Nick headed for home and Dave Watson led us to Tadcaster and the Lemon Tree Cafe via Boston Spa, Clifford, Bramham and Stutton to a very full Lemon Tree. No problem however as the service was good as well as the beans x 7.

Then it was home for the Noble?? Nine via Catterton, Healaugh, Angram and Marston Moor for a comfort stop, as the EG`s continue to age, the comfort tends towards boundless relief. Then back to Knaresborough and our various ways home for a Merry Christmas. The EG`s send special good wishes to Geoff`s wife for a speedy recovery, hoping her Christmas is still good.

It had been an excellent ride, weather better than forecast with us missing for most part the heavy rain. We rode as a team, in good order, at a steady pace that caused nobody any problems, thanks chaps you are stars. Dave P

