

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **EG's Ride**

It was not a good forecast for the day with high winds with some reports at well over 40 mph, however some sun was promised.

Hornbeam car park looked empty of Wheel Easy riders, however on the way down to Low Bridge, greetings were exchanged with James as he made his way up to Hornbeam.

So that's one at least.

We had five riders at Low Bridge, three Dave's, an Eric and a Phil (nice to see you out again Phil).

After a chat with Dave S regarding tacking into, and running before the wind, it was decided to head for Easingwold, the idea being that the wind would be mostly on our left shoulders and backs with (hopefully) a minimum in our faces.

If this did not work out we had the opportunity to bale out at Boroughbridge and in to Morrison's Cafe.

The men's downhill to Occaney was thought to be not on, due to a headwind, and us having to pedal downhill in Granny Gear, however things were not that bad, and four of us made it to the flat but nowhere near our best.

Dave (wonderwheels) Siswick however made it to the bottom of the small rise, well in front of us, what does this man use to lubricate his wheel bearings, Greyhound Fat?.

After Thornton Bridge the wind was mostly on our backs.

The run in to Raskelf and Easingwold seemed unreal, according to the Calendar we are in the depths of winter, but the sky was blue, the sun was on our backs, the roads were dry, and the pedals seemed to turn by themselves.

Dave P thought he had died and gone to heaven, the EG's thought that was difficult to detect, the way he rides.

But the voices of doom were there, "Aye but we will suffer for this on the way back".

In Easingwold the first call was the funny Table Cafe, where the welcome was less than warm, we were told that they did not have enough room for us, despite spare seats and diners offering to move to help us, so it was across the street to spend our money elsewhere.

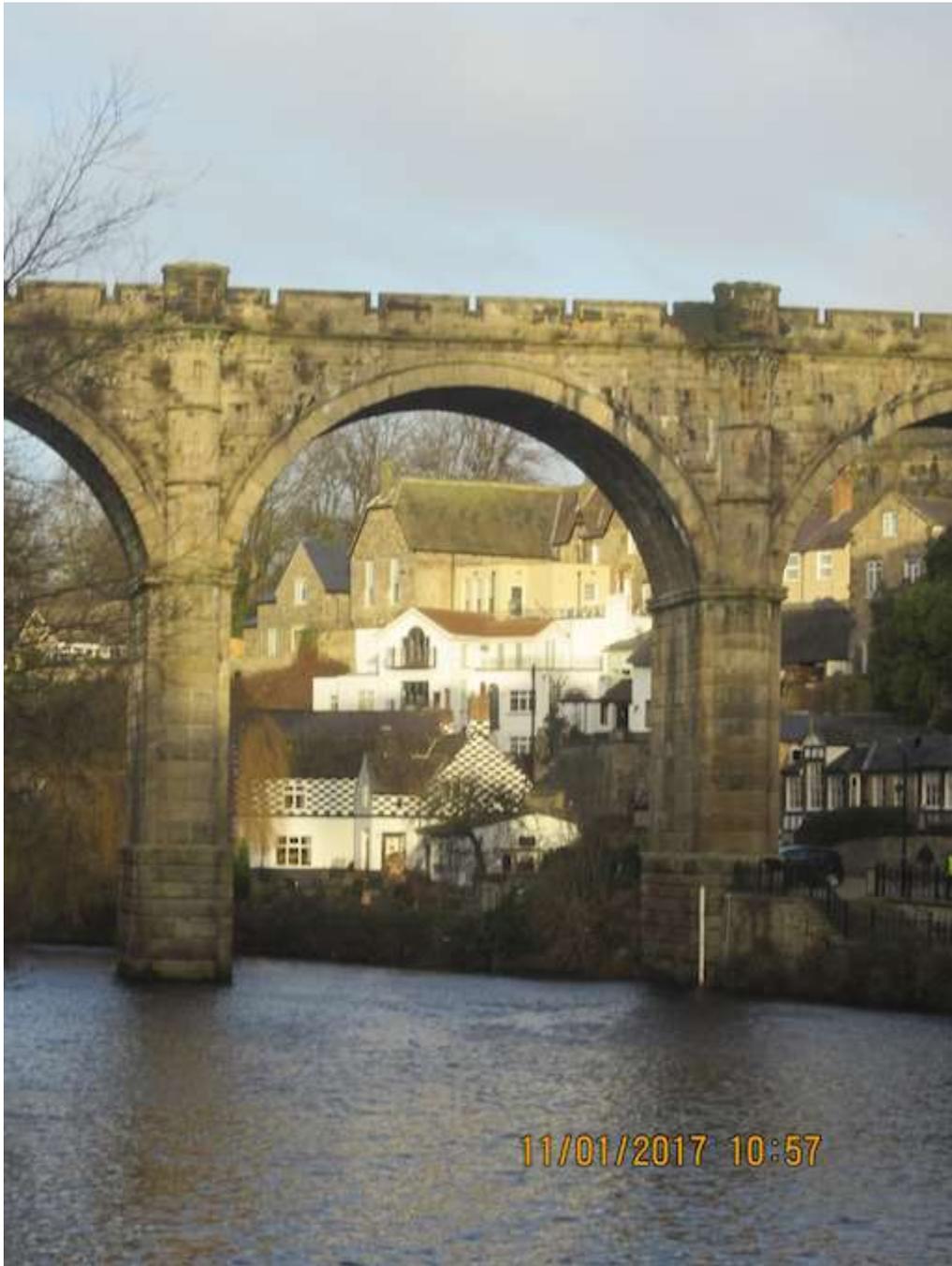
The welcome was better, the service was good, the triple (see photo) was excellent, and the beans were well rated on the Siswick scale, ie quantity and quality, and also for those who don't like to miss out on the better things in life, their breakfast menu is served until 3-00pm.

So for the EG's the queer Table Cafe will be off our list for some time.

The ride back was not as bad as it could have been, the wind was now on our right shoulders, sometimes in our faces and a little less on our backs, progress was good till one EG thought he had left his legs in the cafe, but the lads done good pacing and pushing the blowy stuff and we all finished together in good order.

On the return wet roads indicated we had missed the rain patches, we won't get a better one this winter.

Mileage in high 40's.      Dave P





### **Wednesday Ride**

Although I expected a low turn out in view of the forecast, when I arrived at Hornbeam today I thought I had got the wrong day as the car parks were absolutely devoid of any cyclists and apart from Lesley and Richard who came to collect their ICE/Membership Cards there were no hardy souls about and I was just contemplating which coffee shop to head for when Charlie arrived ready to ride. We agreed to give it a try as we had made the effort and so set off down the Greenway with the intention of keeping as low as possible and use the hedgerows etc as some protection. This was fine until crossing the viaduct over the Nidd half

way along the Greenway a particularly strong gust hit us at just the wrong moment and literally brought us to standstill despite our best efforts to pedal! Having walked off the viaduct we were able to continue in relative shelter to Ripley and through Holly Bank Wood on the nice new surface and down into Birstwith with the intention of following the valley floor to Darley. On the whole it was not a bad plan although we did get very wet for a short while in Darley before climbing up the back lane to Menwith Hill and enjoying a fantastic wind driven freewheel all the way to Hampsthwaite and into Sophies. Having met up for a few minutes with new member Miranda who was out on her own ride and despatched coffee and hot chocolate we headed back up Clint Bank, stopping to take a quick "selfie" to prove we had been out, and into Ripley. Just short of the Church disaster struck and there was a huge bang which turned out to be Charlie's rear tyre in which which large unrepairable hole appeared. Fortunately we were only a few yards from the Number 36 bus stop so Charlie abandoned his bike for the bus to get back to his car at Hornbeam and then return and collect his bike. I headed home along the Greenway and another nice new smooth surface on Bilton Lane to clock up 30 miles which in the end proved to be not too bad and actually produced some sunshine. James G

