

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Wheel Easy Ride Report 557

Medium Plus Rides

The poor weather forecast meant a lower than usual turnout at Hornbeam this morning. However four small Medium Plus groups were sorted with respective leaders – David (faster group), James and Monica with steady paced groups and Gia with a group who opted to go as far as Bishop Monkton and return via Markington. It was raining and cold as we set off, and we set a good pace to try and warm ourselves up. The route took us to Farnham and Burton Leonard and as the rain had abated somewhat, we stopped to take a group photo with the distant misty view. Soon after there were some large floods on the road, but happily we were able to cycle through them. On to Boroughbridge via Bishop Monkton and Roecliffe and all were happy to carry on to Tancred Farm for the coffee stop. It had been rather wet under wheel and a few arrived with mud spattered jackets silently cursing those in the group without decent back mudguards! Feeling warmed and refreshed after our stop we made our way to Spofforth via Cattal and Cowthorpe. The sun even made an appearance as we came into Follifoot. Debby and I said farewell to Mike and Steve at the Travellers Rest, agreeing that the weather had turned out better than expected and glad to have got out and enjoyed the fresh air and company.

The less leisurely group was joined by the long riders today and experienced similar riding conditions on the above-mentioned route. Our mud spattered clothing didn't seem to raise any eyebrows at Tancred where we had the place almost to ourselves until the "steadies" arrived. Improving weather made the homeward leg more enjoyable but I think we were home before the sun came out. About 45 miles James G, Monica and David Webber







Alternative Medium Plus Ride

Five gentlemen joined me for a shortened route which had to include a coffee stop and as Dave Preston was with us, the obligatory Occaney downhill where I came ceremoniously last. We rode straight to Knaresborough via Bond End and took the Scriven and Lingerfield route to Farnham. Mutterings about cafe stops were already afoot and we all agreed to try Grass Roots formerly Cascades at the A61 crossing to Markington. They were kind to our bikes, storing them indoors and by the time we left the rain had stopped there was some blue in the sky and temperatures on the way up. We enjoyed the run home via Shaw Mills,

Clint Bank and the Greenway. here we met Liz Pugh's group and then Malcolm ready with his secateurs to cut back overhanging branches. Many thanks to Sustrans Rangers (all Wheel Easy members) who have done a great job in cleaning the path at the Killinghall end. We are hoping that the council will complete the job with a machine. Nice ride, good company, thank you to Tim, John, Paul, Dave and Martin. 29 miles. Gia





Medium Ride

7 hardy souls, having seen the weather forecasts, still turned up for the medium ride. As we headed up to Little Almscliffe the wind tried to blow us back to Hornbeam and it did rain but it wasn't too heavy and we all managed to fight back and posed at the top for photo. We were Andrew, Al, Graham, Peter, Alison, Liz P and Nicky. Please do NOT ask Nicky what the latest trend in selfies is! Now it was onward past the Sun Inn to Cobby Syke, along the A59 to Meagill Lane, through the Naval base where Andrew pointed out that the barrier lifts due to pressure on a pad and not someone waiting for us to arrive! Past Menwith Hill and we followed the instructions through Staupes though we were very grateful to Al for checking every turn on his Garmin. We all zoomed into Hampsthwaite and straight into Sophies where we were well looked after as always though she wanted us to let WE know that they will be closed from 22nd Jan and reopen on 9th Feb. Home was via Killinghall and the Greenway, while looking over the viaduct we were joined by a breakaway medium plus group and then later we met Malcolm heading out for a later ride. About 28 miles with much better weather than forecast and thanks to Al for back marking. Liz P

