

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

We were a small group today; presumably some had seen the dire weather forecast earlier in the week. We hit mist at times, the views were not as good as they can be, the sun was hiding but we didn't get wet at all. Six set off, we were joined by Peter at Ripley but by the time he had got through the village he had discovered a major problem with his bike and decided to head home. The route was Hollybank Lane, Clint and Burnt Yates where Sur John left us. Soon we were up at Brimham where Liz F wanted a photo of the mist over Harrogate. This done, we then had a find a rock to pose against which involved us trekking up the hillside and two of the group carrying their bikes up - such is the determination for the Wanderers to be included in next year's calendar! We continued via Sawley Moor Lane and into G and Ts where we indulged in hot sandwiches or cakes, in one case both, and were well looked after. Leaving Risplith, Alison's chain got jammed but Mike and David came to the rescue and fixed her up enough to get her home. We returned via Sawley, Low Moor Lane and Watergate Lane into Ripley though David had to push on ahead to get home early. On our way out we had stopped to inspect the newly erected Sustrans sign near Bilton crossing. On our return we found it newly painted blue and Malcolm doing excellent work with his paintbrush. 32 miles. Liz Pugh







Wednesday Ride

With a dodgy forecast numbers were a bit on the low side at Hornbeam, but ten of us set off in two groups of five through the town to regroup at Ripley where it became clear that the ASDA route taken by the first group was probably quicker the Stray Route taken by the second, to the Greenway, but not as scenic! It also became apparent as we progressed up Fountains Way and past the Drovers, where we lost Martin to an early bath, that the first group were somewhat faster. The possibility of an early coffee at Fountains was dismissed, almost unanimously, and after the usual lovely sweep down through the Deer Park was

accomplished without being taken out by a marauding herd we regrouped and found our way through Ripon and out past the Race Course onto the relative sanctuary of the road through Skelton to Langthorpe and Boroughbridge. The venue of choice was Bean Vintage which as usual dealt very well with a sudden influx of cyclists, save that Jenny had a long wait for her bacon sandwich which when it came featured almost a full side of bacon. As it happened this delay was fortunate although we did not know it at the time. There was also a further delay when Mike could not find the key for the lock securing his and Jenny's bikes together. Various suggestions to resolve the problem were made, including paying the local ironmonger to come along with his bolt cutters, but after a general "Hunt the key" proved abortive Mike attacked the lock with his multi-tool (see picture) and proved that even robust looking locks are not safe as he had it off in less than 3 minutes! Jonathan and Peter having opted for a slightly longer return through the Dunsforths and another Mike having set off due to time constraints, the remainder left for home via Minskip and Staveley and just beyond Occaney we discovered why we were fortunate that Jenny's bacon sandwich had taken some time. As we dropped down the steep narrow one way lane towards the T junction with the Knaresborough/Farnham road we were musing over whether anyone ever tried to come up the lane against the downward one traffic when we encountered a queue of vehicles held up by a car doing just that and trying to go up the hill the wrong. Fortunately everything had come to a halt just before we got there so we were not faced with a car coming against us up the hill. Having manoeuvred ourselves through the jam we left the man with the flashing blue light who had just arrived at the back of the queue to sort it out! What had been a relatively uneventful ride suddenly wasn't but we managed to get to Knaresborough and part company without further incident. Thanks to all for your company on an enjoyable 35 miles when the weather was not as bad as forecast. James G





Wednesday Long Ride

Just two Richards on the long ride today, others presumably put off by yesterday's wet forecast and early morning fog. We headed for Little Almscliff, Cobby Syke and Blubberhouses with the fog quite variable. However, up Hall Lane it began to lift off and thereafter the day became progressively brighter. We took the left turn after the road to the reservoir which leads to the high point on the A59, but cut off down a gated road to join the A59 further down. There were impressive views of low cloud or fog lying in the valley near Langbar, with some interesting effects from the sun trying to poke its nose under the cloud and fog. We then turned right through Storiths to Cavendish Pavilion and then to Tea on the Green at Bolton Abbey, where we met Angela on a trip from Leeds.

Return was via Beamsley, Nesfield, Ilkley, Otley (busy as ever with cyclists even on a Wednesday), then Castley, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow. A total of 50 miles, and a much better day than it looked like being yesterday. RL



EGs' Ride

It was a misty day at Low Bridge (see photo of railway bridge). We had a good turnout of seventeen riders, mostly right handy lads, definitely fast "A" team material. Weatherspoon's Ripon was chosen for our first stop, and because of the quality riders around, it was make your own way there at whatever speed you preferred. Approaching Ripon Norman, Bill and Terry chose the supermarket for tea and breakfast and then make their own way back.

Dave Preston was last to arrive in Weatherspoon's to order an Eggs Benedict, for once Weatherspoon's got it wrong, and by the time they arrived, DP had nearly OD'd on caffeine through free coffee refills. By the time DP was tucking in to them the lads were ready to depart, so Dave Watson very kindly took over the ride (well he is on his own midden and knows the byways in the area) to head towards Bedale and seek out some cafes for our summer rides. Dave Preston and Peter B, had another cup of coffee (for free) and then headed to Wath at a steady pace, on to Melmerby and Asenby, time for a selfie (see photo). On approaching Cundall we saw a group of cars near a wood, and then a deer.

Now we have seen deer many times in Studley Park, and from Scotland down to Southern England, and often running, but we have never seen a deer run as fast as this, and over such a distance, fences were cleared with ease in height and distance, it did not run into a wood but vanished in the distance. This was something you see on a wildlife TV programme when they are being pursued by David Attenborough, it was unbelievable.

On to Boroughbridge, Upper Dunsforth, Arkendale, and Ferrensby to meet up with Bill, Norman and Terry coming from Occaney, and then home for all of us.

Dave P and Peter B on 50 plus miles in good weather for the first of February.

Look forward to hearing how your ride went Dave. Dave P





EGs' Ride Addendum

Overcast skies greeted the first morning of February following considerable overnight rain, not conducive to getting out on a bike ride but seventeen enthusiasts gathered at Low Bridge seemingly champing at the bit to be led on new adventures.

Breaking down into smaller groups the fast lads set off with a vengeance their progress only to be thwarted by yet another puncture for Dave Siswick, his second in three days! Eventually we all congregated at Weatherspoon's except Norman, Terry and Bill who preferred alternative fare.

Eggs Benedict, Bacon sandwiches and Scrambled eggs scoffed, Dave P handed over the leaders baton to Dave Watson with the suggestion we should head for Bedale so eleven of the original seventeen starters set off through Wath north the only incident being Nicks water bottle ejecting itself whilst traversing a particularly rough piece of road surface.

Arriving just after noon in Bedale we were in a bit of a pickle as our usual choice of fare remained closed. Enquiries from locals led us to disperse six to "Cafe Four Cups" and the remaining five to "The Pantry" further up the High Street towards the church.

Despite our potential misgivings, service at "Cafe Four Cups" was swift and we enjoyed Spicy (very) Parsnip soup, Peas pudding salad and the clear winner a wonderful mushroom and cheese omelette.

Gathering up the "troops" following our excellent meal we headed towards home via Thorpe Perrow then taking in that challenging hill in Well continuing on through West Tanfield where it was agreed to continue to follow the main road directly to Ripon, chasing in the wheel tracks of Marvin & Richard who'd already decided to take this direct route home. Entering Ripon at the Clock Tower we took the road towards Fishergreen footbridge and followed the route around Littlethorpe crossing the path of the local hunt enjoying one of its rare days hunting.

Circumventing carefully the rather large horses we progressed through Bishop Monkton, where Dave Wilson departed to head home through Markington whilst the remaining six climbed up towards Sandybank.

Just as we climbed our way towards home the sun decided to appear from behind the clouds too late to make any real difference but welcome anyway.

Arriving in Knaresborough just before 4.00 o'clock the ride continued to disband after completing approximately 50 plus miles. ----- Dave Watson.