

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Wanderers Ride

17 Wanderers gathered at Hornbeam for the Wanderers ride, a warm welcome to Steve Smith who bravely joined us despite being warned of Liz and Hills!! After arranging the cyclists into two groups, the first group set off via the Stray to Bilton, where at Dragon Bridge the two groups merged together unexpectedly as the other group had taken the shorter Asda route. At Bilton Cross we picked up Alan and now I had 18 cyclists. On the Greenway they were film vehicles, camera crews and security people, who told Steve they could not tell us what they were filming, then said it was Paddington Two! At the viaduct the film crew had barriers across the viaduct and the security crew asked us to dismount and walk by the cranes and other filming vehicles. Chaos ensued as we stopped to take a photo among the film crew, with so many of us, the instructions got lost but we did manage two pictures. The motley crew of cyclists carried on, lovely early bluebells brightened our ride to Ripley. Hollybank Wood was full of wild flowers as we cycled up to Clint Bank then on to Birstwith. Mike became the co-leader as the group made their way to Darley. Max, Steve and Joe left us to do a shorter route back. Towards the end of the road Liz F shouted right, Liz Pugh said left, confusing everyone but we managed to sort our left and rights out and 15 cycled on to Dacre and up to Padside. Mike led a group of 9 back to Harrogate via Fewston stopping at the farm café. Liz F, Liz P, Mike, Steve, new Steve and Alan decided to carry on and do the planned route. A lovely swoop down pass Thurscross Reservoir to Blubberhouses, a few feet touched tarmac when we crossed the A59 and hit the steep hill. Alan decided to sit down in the ditch halfway up the hill as he could not get his cleats out quick enough and fell off, a joke about damaging the ancient rocks of Yorkshire soon lowered the tone. The day was quite sunny and warmish as we cycled on and stunning views of Yorkshire opened up before us, Fewston reservoir, the moors and hills, lovely hills!! At Low Snowden, Steve became co-leader as we turned left along the track with more spectacular views, reaching the top road and then across and down to Askwith. At Otley the Riverside café provided delicious sandwiches and cakes as we were now quite hungry. Talk about more hills to come despite Mike saying it was not hilly enough and could I not find more hills!! A pull up out of Otley then down to Leathley where we turned right along the lovely ridge road to Almscliff Crag. A quick photo stop before we started the ascent, the daffodils were still in full bloom as we wound our way up the hill and again glorious views of Almscliff Crag and the viaduct appeared before our eyes. A grand finale at the crags, was a magnificent Red Kite flying close to us giving us a super view of the bird's colours and flying skills. Into North Rigton then up the hill where Liz P left us to go home via Beckwithshaw and Liz and the five boys carried on to Hornbeam. A great day out with wonderful views of Yorkshire. Short ride 30 odd miles, the longer ride 45 miles with 1011 metres of accumulated climbing. Thanks to Mike and Steve for co leading and Steve for photos.

-





Wednesday Ride

Route

The 53 mile route took us to Beckwithshaw, Fewston, Timble, Askwith, Ilkley, Bolton Abbey, Appletreewick, Stump Cross, Duck Street, Hampsthwaite and back home to Harrogate

The Group

The usual Wednesday riders led by Colin and Kevin included Charlie's son Sam and returning Wheel Easy member Vanessa.

Refreshments

We stopped for lunch at Abbey Tea Rooms and for afternoon cakes and tea at Sophie's.

The Highlights

As always the company, the hills and the views from the top and Colin's knowledge of nature. In addition we had the wind behind us going down Duck Street.
A great day, thanks everyone! PaulT



EG's Ride

We had ten riders at Low Bridge, and the weather looked better than the forecast. The destination being Easingwold for first coffee stop with Coxwold the furthest away destination.

This turned out to be a ride for everybody, which is how all good rides should be, and was time and distance dependent.

Away we went soon to be joined by Dan, the "A" team decided to put in a few extra miles and away they went.

Leaving Bill, Dave P, Geoff, Nick and Norman to take a slower pace.

The downhill cup to Occaney was this week taken by Nick, reigning Champ Dave S being away with the "A" team.

Bill and Norman left us at Boroughbridge to head for Ripon.

Leaving the remaining "three Musketeers" to head for Easingwold, to arrive at Grants Cafe a little later than the "A" team.

After a tasty break, Dan headed for home, and the remaining eight headed for Husthwaite and Coxwold.

With the White Horse of Kilburn in our sights (again), Colin, Eric and Phil, now the "A" team headed for the hills?. (look forward to your report Eric).

Hot off the press, for Colin, Eric and Phil it was one of those eyeballs out, then sprint for it rides, Bagby, Boroughbridge Morrisions, Exhausted,, Scotton, Ripley, Greenway, home, I feel exhausted just writing this.

Dave P, Dave Siswick, Dave Watson, Geoff and Nick carried straight on to Carlton Husthwaite, Hutton Sessay, Thorton Bridge and Boroughbridge (Morrisions being rejected on this occasion, the shareholders wept) and home.

The weather had been better than forecast, the ride gave everybody what they wanted, it do`nt get much better.

At this time our thoughts are with Bob Shears,

Best Wishes from all of us Bob and hope to see you out with us again in the near future.

Dave P.





Poddlers Ride

Well that was fun. Pleasant weather for cycling, perfect people cycling, a route to cycle and a good place for off bike refreshments, all add up to a jolly morning's (well perhaps a bit more than a morning) jaunt. Six ladies were raring to go and set off forcefully up to Beckwithshaw, mingling happily with a variety of long riders, and a fellow looking for Fewston Reservoir. We had a quick before photo at Stainburn Car Park and continued through Stainburn Forest where we encountered the Fewston searcher, who informed us he had looked at a map and knew the way to Fewston, even though we told him he was going the wrong way. We came across him again as we cruised down to the right turn and 3 miles to Otley T junction....clearly completely lost, struggling manfully with a map and compass and confused look. Somehow we negotiated our way up a vertical cliff to the outskirts of Otley amidst the cheers of 2 gentlemen hikers and amazingly to Tittybottom Park, through the town, through the Stephen Smith car park and at sonic speed along the main road to the haven of the farm shop near Pool Bridge.

Here Jean and Bridgette rewarded themselves with a couple of the most enormous sausage sandwiches, Nicola tucked into a similarly large bacon number, Monica tackled a scone that sadly did not meet the Bean Boroughbridge scone perfection level and Caroline and Jen abstemiously shared a small but delicious pork pie, all washed down with something refreshingly wet. Yum. After a very productive gossip and refueling we all felt ready for the homeward dash via the banks of the Wharfe and the heights of Kirby Overblow's horrid graveyard hill and home. 57kilometres, 119 floors, 109,000 calories consumed. CG



Julie's Ride

Dave wanted to share some great hills and suggested a diversion via Langbar. Vanessa, Glynn and Julie foolishly agreed. However the challengers were rewarded with stunning views over Wharfedale followed by swift descent to the tea rooms overlooking the Abbey. The food lived up to the views. Vanessa and Glynn returned to the tea rooms down the road to rejoin the group while Dave and Julie pushed on. Julie kindly declined Dave's alternative route suggestion via Pateley and Peat Lane and instead followed the planned route down Duck Street to Hampsthwaite and back to Harrogate. 53 miles 3963 feet! Julie E.



Colin's Ride



Snowdonia Trip

Although not an official Wheel Easy trip, a group of ten mostly Wheel Easy members spent three days in Snowdonia this week. We stayed at a superb B&B called Cae'r Blaidd in Llan Ffestiniog, which for most of us rated as the best B&B we have ever stayed in. On Tuesday we cycled to Harlech and back, mostly in bright sunshine, including the tough climb of Harlech Chimney, which gives great views of the Llyn Peninsular. There was an optional climb at the end, but no takers as it had been a very hard 32 miles. Wednesday took us to Bala, where six continued via Hirnant Pass to Lake Vyrnwy, then to Llanuwchllyn via the highest road pass in Wales, while four opted to explore the roads around the lake on the way to Llanuwchllyn. After a good lunch we returned via the wonderfully remote 14 mile road to Trawsfynydd, with nothing more than a couple of farmhouses and five gates. On Thursday we had planned a 45 mile ride, but decided on a shorter route after our

previous exertions. We started with the climb to Stwlan Dam, with its eight stacked hair pins at the top, then over Crimea Pass and down to Betws y Coed, an eight mile descent. After lunch at Conwy Falls, we returned via Penmachno and one last big climb. Overall, we did 122 miles with 13,207 feet of climbing, so it was very hard work, but the scenery was spectacular, the roads almost empty, we had no crashes or punctures and not a single drop of rain. Richard L





