

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

No wind and a hint of sun potential. Five people wanted to Poddle.....not too far and not too fast. So whilst everyone else tried to sort out what they were doing we set off, up the steps or round the railway bridge towards Rossett, the Squinting Cat and Beckwithshaw. After a gentle pedal up to Almscliff we had another gentle burst towards Menwith and a glide down to Darley and Birstwith, then a relaxing climb up to Clint Bank and onto Ripley, where Bridget and Paula had grabbed an outside table in the sun and we all raided the church cafe for magnificent cheese scones and a decent cup of coffee. It is sad the prices have risen but still not ridiculous. and the variety and quality of the freshly baked goodies is excellent. Sue and her neighbour had to race back to the Beck and 3 enjoyed an extremely relaxing meander back to Harrogate for an early lunch. About 26 miles 13,296 paces, 83 floors of perfect midsummer cycling. CG





Wanderers' Ride

Considering a number of regulars are currently cycling the Tweed valley, and it was also the Away Day ride, there were a surprising number of 16 takers. Splitting into two groups, we took the usual path through the Showground, past Rudding and on towards Follifoot where our numbers grew to 18 when Jeanie and friend joined us.

We sped on towards Little Ribston and along the cycle path to Walshford. Unfortunately the other Keith had a puncture riding along Whixley Lane. Luckily Joe and Paul were able to direct operations and sort things out. Mike had left us a note on the seat at Whixley which we missed as we sped through. At the railway level crossing the gatekeeper kindly opened the gates to let us all through.

While the two Keiths, Joe and Paul were busy mending the puncture, the main group set off towards Whixley, though now leaderless.

Everyone met up again at the Bean Café at Boroughbridge although Gordon and Dennis had left by this time. After enjoying a welcome break a few threatening drops of rain meant we didn't linger too long. However once a few waterproofs were donned, the rain soon passed. There was an uneventful ride home through Minskip, Staveley and Farnham and up the hill at Knaresborough and home.

Distance covered 36 miles on a warm sultry day that was the longest day of the year.

Thank you to Joe for fixing Keith's bike and to Mike for back-marking. Keith M





Wednesday's Awayday Ride Appleby -in -Westmoreland

The start of this Awayday ride in Cumbria necessitated an early start and so those on their way over the A66 witnessed a tremendous thunder and lightning storm which didn't bode well for today's ride in the Eden Valley.

On arrival there were a few anxious faces amongst the 13 riders who turned up today (a lot of the regulars were on a longer ride in the Tweed Valley) about weather and suitable gear.

Nevertheless the rain had stopped and everyone was still up for the route set out for the day and so we set off under grey skies with some quite large puddles on the road! We

climbed out of Appleby and headed towards Dufton with the distinctive High Cup Nick and Dufton Pike just visible in the clouds.

It is a wonderful run on very quiet roads through some small villages and Dufton itself is a delight as we rested near the village green.

With a smaller group we decided to take a slightly earlier coffee stop at Acorn Bank, a National Trust property, just outside Temple Sowerby which was new to most people. The staff looked after us really well and the Westmoreland pepper cake was a triumph (it was so good that they had run out by the time John H got to be served and he missed out!). We were able to sit outside as the cloud had cleared and the sun was on the way out.

With our ride in the beautiful sandstone coming to an end we headed for the limestone country on the other side of the A66 and with the weather getting back to what it was like the past few days we enjoyed an undulating ride on quiet lanes through the beautiful villages of Morland, Kings Meaburn and Crosby Ravensworth. There was one little detour to take in the valley where we shunned the fords and used the footbridges!

We then started the only really big climb out of Crosby Ravensworth and up onto the limestone escarpment and on to Orton for lunch. The climb is a long drag and the weather was now humid and as we came out onto the ridge we were glad of a slight wind in our faces to cool down.

Once everyone had made it we swooped down to Orton to enjoy the delights of the Orton Scar Cafe (a return trip to this very good cycle friendly cafe) and we were served very quickly and efficiently and enjoyed a well-earned rest and good conversation.

We rallied the group for the ride home with the prospect of just 15 miles to do and with only one climb and a wonderful ride on the limestone escarpment everyone made good progress. After the obligatory photo at the top we had a wonderful rollercoaster ride along deserted roads back towards Appleby and as we were making good time we diverted to Rutter Falls (we missed it out last year!) and another photo opportunity. We then rode the short distance to Appleby for an earlier than usual finish which gave us time to sing Happy Birthday to Colin who has a big birthday tomorrow (involving a number 7) before we set off back home in brilliant sunshine.

Another great route in an area that is 'undiscovered' and offer quiet roads and great scenery.

Thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a great day - the company was as good as the scenery - and thanks to Colin for another terrific route.

Even the weather worked out for us! Kevin









Wednesday Long Ride

After the scorching sun of the previous four days it was with mild relief that eight signed on for a longish ride around the familiar Wharfedale Circuit today in cooler conditions. Some of the regulars were away in distant parts like Appleby, the Borders or the Vosges mountains but happily our numbers were swelled by Stewart and Peter who fancied a challenge today. With a number of the group still in recovery from derring-do in the heat of Sunday, the pace was distinctly steady on the outward leg to Abbey Tea Rooms. Everyone opted for Langbar and the climb up towards Beamsley – our photo shows the summit party admiring the view and, perhaps, feeling pleased with themselves. This was put into perspective by the unruffled appearance of ex-WE rider Julie, who seemed to have cruised effortlessly up the steeper side of the climb. Work to do chaps! Abbey Tea Room played host to Martin's seafaring tales from his recent battle with the Atlantic, reminding me of the lyrics to Sloop John B (Beach Boys, as I'm sure you recall). From this point, Stewart and Peter headed back, while the rest of us felt the spots of rain and wondered just how wet we were going to get. Luckily we escaped all but a light dowsing as we came across some wet roads on the way towards the Appletreewick turn. Suddenly it had become hot and humid, despite the (unhelpful) breeze, leaving us little option on reaching Stump Cross than to call in for a cuppa. Here Peter J extolled the joys of cycling in France and in Paris in particular. A great-sounding trip. Soon we were heading down Duck Street towards Menwith into the breeze, keeping our shape nicely until the peel-offs began for a fairly early finish, just beating the school rush. Despite the familiar route, there were uplifting views and plenty of on-road conversation to complete a steady and enjoyable ride, 51 miles and c 4400 ft of ascent.
Terry Smith





EGs' Ride

So I hear it was the longest day of the year, from now on it is all going the wrong way, never mind the weather was good and not too hot, though thunderstorms were forecast for the evening.

Last week we were in the Easingwold area, so it was suggested and agreed to head for Taddy and the Lemon Tree cafe for our first coffee stop. Then it was on the B1614 (the bikes know the way), left turn to Cowthorpe, then down Rudgate to Thorpe Arch Trading Estate where Bob Shears left to take his coffee at its cafe.

His intention was to take in the caffeine then cycle to his grandson`s school Sports Day, he was advised not to get involved in any races for Grandads, but if pressed be allowed to use his bike.

By now the "A" team was in the Lemon Tree Cafe, however the "B" who arrived later had the last laugh as their orders were taken first, meaning their coffee and crumpet arrived first. After caffeine and calories Dave Watson phoned home and had to leave us, best wishes to Dave and Pamela, he was kindly accompanied by John Russell aka "JR".

A magnificent 7 then headed for Bolton Percy and Colton, on the way Chris punctured, and while we waited for him to decide on the length of his tyre valve it started to rain (not heavy and no thunder) so it was capes on, by the time we got to Copmanthorpe it was capes off, as this only happened once it was not a COCO day.

On to Askham Richard with a banana break taken at Tockwith Post Office (drinks, nibbles etc.).

Then it was on to Cowthorpe, the B6164 and Little Ribston, where the fellowship of the 7 disbanded (no we did not get lost) with some on to Knaresborough.

It had been an excellent ride, slightly shorter than usual due to the forecast, but still a good mileage, in excellent conditions.

At this time of writing Harrogate had not seen any rain/thunder, any bets when?

Finally best wishes from the EG`s and Wheel Easy to Dave Wilson who will be going in for his operation soon, and knowing Dave we are sure he will be back on his bike in no time at all. Dave P.

