

Sunday, July 22, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Reports 633

Long Ride

Thirteen people set off from Hornbeam for the long ride to Thirsk & Northallerton, the opposite way round to the direction we usually do this route. We made steady progress & were soon having our first stop in Thirsk, splitting between two cafes. Continuing on towards Northallerton we were now down to twelve people with Geoff having turned for home just before Thirsk. Leaving Northallerton we were into the only hilly section of the ride as we headed through Knayton, Upsall & Felixkirk on new roads to some. The only mishap of the ride was as we headed towards Upsall when an overtaking car & caravan cut in too close & knocked Dave S into the verge, fortunately without any serious injury & he was able to continue the ride. There was a very welcome second café stop at Sessay before the last few miles home. A great ride in good company on a very hot day – around 78 miles. Jill





Off Road Ride

Just Brian, Dave and me for the off road jaunt to-day.

From Ripley we hardly touched the tarmac until we got to Fountains for lunch. Looking at the map over lunch, Brian said he could get us home via Markenfield Hall, Markington, and the MountGarret estate, and he did.....trails I didn't know! Dave was photographer to-day. Colin

Short Ride

Two Wheel Easy 'firsts' on today's Short Ride! We were 11 in total, 6 ladies (including first timer Judy – welcome!), 4 men and little Saffie, the extremely cute dog belonging to Mike and Eileen which rode happily in its basket on Mike's pannier rack. Saffie (and possibly Eileen) prefer traffic free routes so headed directly for the Greenway while the rest of us set off for Beckwithshaw, Little Almscliff, Menwith Hill and Hampsthwaite. Significantly, at least to this cycling campaigner, 4 of the 10 bikes were electric – the revolution cometh! It had been billed as the 'no messing' ride straight to Sophie's and back. This proved a slight exaggeration and our route eventually added up to about 24 miles instead of the advertised 15. However, this was by popular demand. Just too nice a day to get home before you had to. All 11 of us met up as planned at Sophie's and enjoyed a very leisurely chat in the garden until some of us remembered that we had commitments in Harrogate. Alan led about half the group the shorter way back up Hollins Lane towards Knox Lane, the rest of us returned along the Greenway. I was given leave to switch to 'turbo' mode at Hollybank Woods so I could make it to Bilton Gala by 1.30 as promised, and help the campaigners against the proposed relief road which, despite what some people believe, continue to threaten the Greenway. I hope everyone got home safely and thanks to all for your excellent company and support. Gia



Medium Plus Ride

A nice warm morning with the sun shining and the prospect of it getting even hotter, Mikes phone did say black cloud was on it's way? Riders were split into 2 groups, I took the first and James the other group, my 8 set off towards Burn Bridge re-grouping off the A61 towards Kirby Overblow. It was a nice steady ride to Wetherby and the cycle path out towards Thorp Arch and Wighill before turning towards Tadcaster. Then on to Bolton Percy and a welcome coffee stop at Doyly's tearoom, it was getting a lot warmer. James's group did catch up with us just as we were finishing our coffees and teas. We cycled on to Appleton Roebuck, Ascaster Selby and across the airfield towards Acaster Malbis when Rob had a puncture, he timed it right, a well shaded driveway, where all hands got the new innertube in. On to the cycle path and the Solar System, stopping at the Sun then on to the A64 cycle path, this had been cleared from when I did a recce, all the thorns and thistles and some low hanging branches across the path had been cleared over the past week. At Askern Richard the option of another coffee stop was offered, but it was decided to carry on, lots of new tarmac on this road now. Good progress was made over Marston Moor with a nice cool head wind to Little Ribston where 1 rider went off towards Wetherby and home and 2 more towards Knaresborough and the last 5 carried on to Spofforth, Follifoot and back to Hornbeam. A good steady pace with a few fast'ish sprints.

Chris R





Medium Plus Ride with James

After waving goodbye to the fast boys, Chris soon got the rest of organised into two groups and then set off with the first one. Gia, Paul, Alun, Monica, Keith, Helen, Justin and myself left shortly afterwards and after some initial confusion in the mind of our perennial back marker who shall remain nameless we all came together and headed in pleasantly warm conditions through Kirby Overblow, Wetherby and Tadcaster to D'Oyles in Bolton Percy for what we hoped would be our cafe stop. Looking at the number of bikes already parked there we didn't rate our chances of getting a table and/or reasonably quick service very highly, but enquiries of the management proved fruitful and we secured a cool table inside as the day was now getting very warm and also good service so we were on our way again in reasonable time. Gia and Paul left us at this point to return via a shorter route, thus unfortunately missing out on a photo shoot, outside The Ship at Acaster Malbis. Resisting the temptation to cool off in the river we joined the York/Selby cycleway and the Solar System to bounce over the tree routes and along the cycle path to Askham Richard, where

the ladies were offering tea and cakes and were even prepared to start early if we wanted to join them. Again temptation was resisted and we undertook a hot "time trial" run across the flat lands to Cowthorpe with Monica and Alun leading the way. At Little Ribston Alun and I bailed out leaving Keith and Helen and Monica and Justin to return to Harrogate via Spofforth and the Show-ground. Thanks to all for your usual good humour and company and particularly to Justin who seemed to be the butt of most of the humour for the day (well he is an "incomer" after all!)

James G



Medium Ride

Lovely ride to Benningborough in this glorious weather. 12 of us set off and unfortunately 1 left us early [thank you for ensuring I was aware and hope you got home ok] two departed at Great Ouseburn opting out of the Benningborough loop. For the first time I can ever remember the inside of the cafe was empty as everyone visiting had decided to sit outside in the sun so we had a choice of tables to sit at . I was very pleased to hear a few had never been this side of Harrogate before and were thoroughly enjoying the route. I was thanked by everyone for leading, lost nobody and we did 47.77 miles with the loop. Many many thanks to Dave who took the roll as back marker. Julie W

