

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

After four weeks away it was a joy to be back at Hornbeam with all the familiar faces in the glorious cool of a British summer day. I had in my head thoughts of Fountain's Deer Park...but which way would be easiest.....well ending on the Greenway seemed a better option than Knaresborough for the finish. So that was the plan.

The participants were comfortably familiar and with the addition of first timers Stuart and Jane on electric bikes, a nice person who looked like another person when she took her hat off and Margaret who had wandered to the Wanderers but had been knocked off her bike during the week and needed a gentle confidence building ride, we were a group.

The route was to Ripon without incident; Fountains Deer Park where Jen unusually threw a chain and we attacked a not quite as steep as expected hill to the cafe; at this point Monica Nightingale tried unsuccessfully to contact dislocated husband and decided to return to her nursing duties at speed; the hill to the Gypsy encampment and a demonstration of the reasons why the electric bike is becoming so popular; a quick tour de France moment as Jane and I encountered a group of Nova riders having a very french comfort break by the side of the road on our way to the last dismounting hill.

Graham departed, as large quantities of super sweet blackberries tempted us....well me, before the swoop down to Ripley and the Greenway with a bit of spoke removal before everyone went their separate speedy ways home. 31 miles of pure joy and unravelling of Jane's correct weather forecast. Caroline G



Wanderers' Ride

Twenty-one riders chose to ride from Hornbeam, Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow, Sicklinghall, to Wetherby roundabout, on to Bramham, Toulson Lane, Tadcaster, Wighill, Walton, Wetherby cycle track, to Cowthorpe Road, Little Ribston, Spofforth, Follifoot and back to Hornbeam.

For safety reasons we split into three groups. A lovely cycling day, we soon got to Wetherby where we all met up. Four people left at Wetherby, others cycled to Bramham and re-grouped. Three more left at Bramham to get home. Hope you found Coffee Shop ok?

The rest of us cycled on to Tadcaster. Stopped for tea/coffee break at The Lemon Tree. Photo session, then on road again to Wetherby, Freeman's Way, then on through Sandbeck Estate, on to cycle track towards Walshford, left turn onto Cowthorpe Road, on to Little Ribston, to Spofforth - quite a head wind, on to Follifoot, Hornbeam.

Quite a large group to manage, thanks to all for your help and thanks to Alison for looking after everything at the back.
Enjoyable ride with good company. Thanks to all who took part. I don't think we lost many!
43 miles. Mike W



Wednesday Ride

A sublime route from Jill, with no bumps at all. Led at steady pace - Jill, Jan, John, Ian, Tim and me headed to Knaresborough, Goldsborough, Flaxby and onward to the newly tarmaced approach to Aldwark Bridge. 'I'm ready for a coffee' was heard but no, it was 'keep pedalling' to Myton on Swale, where the oak trees were looking at their majestic peak. Lunch at Vintage Bean in Boroughbridge, where the daintiest of scones were in complete contrast to the door-stopper sarnies. Very, very steady back to Knaresborough with super teamwork to deflect the hint of gathering breeze, thus protecting the back marker! Great ride in super company. Sarah C.



Away Day

Sat around the table having a coffee one day there was a discussion about Awaydays. The comment was that we needed somewhere different and how about West Yorkshire. I quietly volunteered that eight years ago a group us had done a circular ride from Hebden Bridge to Howarth and over the top of the moors returning back to Heptonstall. This idea was greeted with enthusiasm and I must admit those of us who did the ride eight years ago remembered it was some affection. It is surprising, however, what eight years does to your legs!

So we set off from Hebden Bridge about twenty riders in two groups and made our way up the long climb over the top of the moor and down to Oxenhope Station. Spot-on cue we were greeted by a lovely steam engine on the historic rail line waiting to take passengers on board. Lots of photographs taken and everyone expressed delight if this was the way the day was going. But there was lots more to come!

Our second group stopped for a meal at one of the many cafes on Main Street Howarth and then we all set off across the moors towards Lancashire and the famous hamlet of a Wycoller. As soon as we crossed the border into Lancashire the rain started, and it got heavier and heavier. So Yorkshire is definitely the place to be but we had to struggle on in this foreign land with the rain pouring down. My group missed out the turning to Wycoller and so we carried on around the lanes. Apparently the first group found a different turning and that involved cow pats and barbed wire! From Trawdon we headed back over another moorland with monster climbs. We couldn't remember walking them last time but most of us will this time!

Then it was back to Hebden Bridge. My computer says 29 miles, my legs say something else. Fantastic and very different scenery, but next time I want an electric bike with a big big battery! Martin W







Nine riders left Hebden Bridge for a short but very hilly ride to Howarth and Wycoller and back through Heptonstall.

Although I was nominally the leader, my hill climbing was not as good as most of the group so I ended up leading mainly from the back. Several riders had various versions of the ride loaded onto their GPS so there was some discussion about the correct route at times.

The ride started with a long hill out of Hebden Bridge but it was fairly gentle and we all arrived at the top to find Vanessa waiting patiently. A good fast downhill took us to Howarth where we decided it was too early for lunch so we agreed to press on to Wycoller where there was reported to be an excellent cafe.

Again we climbed a series of hills until we reached a point where the route appeared to leave the road and head across a bridle path. This soon fizzled out into a field with no obvious way out. Eric disappeared to find a way and the rest of us puzzled and scratched our heads to find a better one. Eventually under Keith's guidance with the help of an OS map we found a track which led us down to Wycoller.

The cafe proved to be every bit as good as promised but eventually we had to leave to head back. Of course, being in Lancashire meant that it had to have started raining and it wasn't until we were safely back in Yorkshire that it stopped again. The route back to Heptonstall was even more hilly than ever but eventually we came down to ride over the cobbled streets and then down into Hebden Bridge.

This was a very interesting but sometimes demanding ride. Only 29 miles but over 4000 ft of climbing and a special off road section in the middle. Despite my leading from the back we all arrived pretty much together and in one piece in Hebden Bridge. Andrew H



Long Ride

After much deliberation three riders headed off to Selby. The first part of the ride was along Leadhall Lane, Panal, Kirkby Overblow, Collingham, a circular tour of Bramham, Aberford and eventually Lotherton Hall. Over tea and scones at Lotherton Hall it was decided to give Selby a miss due to the windy weather. After Lotherton it was off to Sherburn and Cawood, where we took in a visit to Cawood Castle. There followed a brisk ride across the flat lands to Naburn, a gentle ride along the Planets cycleway, and a diversion to Bishopthorpe to view another historical building namely Bishopthorpe Palace. So, we set off again this time to the

racecourse, followed by a meander through a housing estate to arrive at the Park and Ride, and then on to Askham Richard for massive slices of cake and tea. By this time the wind was gaining strength which made the return journey, via the usual route to Harrogate, hard work into a gusty headwind. PCJ

EGs' Ride

The Lost Majority (and phone)

Seven of us set off from Low Bridge heading for Riccall via Tadcaster, we collected Dave Watson shortly after setting off to make eight. First to leave us were Bob (on his mechanical bike) and Roy, a few miles later Dave Wilson and Nick left us to head north towards Cattal while we headed south towards Thorpe Arch. Then Dave Wilson disappeared off the front of the group leaving three out of eight at The Lemon Tree in Tadcaster. This must be a record attrition rate, less than half remaining at the morning coffee stop.

So with Phil, Geoff and Marvin left a unanimous decision was made to head for Riccall and the cycle path back to York for a stop at Cycle Heaven where the usual large portions of food appeared, so full were we that I forgot to pick up my phone, fortunately a member of staff found it and I am going back tomorrow for it.

A great ride covering up to 70 miles. Marvin H