

Sunday, September 17, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 20

Last week Wheel Easy was formally accepted as a full section of the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC). This is especially poignant as over 100 years ago the CTC was formed in Harrogate, and now represents cycling at a national level, with the backing of its 90,000 members.

Last Tuesday evening many Wheel Easy members attended the "Active Travel" talk given by David Hall of Sustrans, Leeds. There was overwhelming support for more cycling facilities, and especially pressure on both Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council to get on with the legal processes in completing the Harrogate to Ripley route. This is seen as a key facility to enable Harrogate cyclists to get out into the countryside.

Last Sunday a dozen Wheel Easy riders set off from Hornbeam towards Claro Road, across Dragon Bridge and onto the packhorse bridge at Knox Ford. From there the group took back roads to Ripley.

From Ripley it was through quiet lanes to Nidd, Brearton, and Lingerfield. Those on the shorter ride headed back to Knaresborough and Harrogate at this point, using the Beryl Burton cycle way. The other half of the group, enjoying the good weather, continued on to Arkendale before returning. A fine morning's outing, covering 18 very enjoyable miles.

All cyclists are welcome to join our next ride, starting as usual on Sunday at Hornbeam Park Railway station at 10.00 am. Rides include a 10-12 mile short route, and longer options up to 35 miles. Please note that the Wednesday evening rides have now stopped for the winter and will re-start next spring. Details on-line at www.wheel-easy.org.uk.