

Sunday, December 10, 2006

Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 32



An 'all girl' cast of Wheel Easy! cyclists planned and organised today's very successful adventure, quite a challenging 36 mile ride to Fountains Abbey. Jill and Gia recced the route in November, and Sue assisted Jill on the day as 'tail end Charlie', ensuring no stragglers were left behind.

With Bill and Dave setting off for Tockwith to join Ripon Loiterers for the Carol Service and refreshments organised by the Mother and Toddlers group, Jill led 16 riders towards Bilton and Knox Lane to the most hazardous point, the crossing of the A61. From then on it was a lovely ride, on mainly quiet byways first skirting Killinghall to Hampsthwaite and then to Clint Bank, bisecting the line of the old railway en route.

Some good climbs and even better downhills took us through Shaw Mills and Bishop Thornton, where four cyclists split off at the former Drovers Inn to return home. The pack continued along the road towards Sawley before swooping down to Fountains Abbey and the final short rise to the Visitor Centre at neighbouring Studley Roger, where we stopped for refreshments.

We then split into two equal groups, half returning the way we had come, the rest via Fountains, Markington, Bishop Monkton, Farnham and Knaresborough. Another excellent day out.

Dave Preston writes:

Bill W & Dave P rode to Knaresborough to pick up Norman and Terry then to Tockwith for the CTC Carol Service. The route chosen was via Arkendale, Marton cum Grafton and Whixley.

Near Thorpe Underwood we were joined by riders from Ripon Loiterers and rode together to Tockwith. It's always pleasant to ride with riders from others clubs and have a chat on the way.

A good spread of food was put on at the Village Hall by the local childrens playgroup. There were many cyclists from all over Yorkshire there, and as such it was good to meet old friends and make new acquaintances. This is always an enjoyable social occasion even if you do not

actually join the service.

Three of us did not attend the service and took the shortest way back, feeling the cold a little and watching out for the bad weather that looked to be on its way.