

Sunday, June 8, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 110



Long ride. Fourteen of us set off in perfect weather for a hilly ride. The overall route was Fewston, Askwith, Middleton, Langbar, Beamsley, Ilkley, Otley and home. Near Fewston we were joined by rider number 15, Liz, who had cycled over from Summerbridge to join the ride.

From around Askwith we started to see a steady number of cyclists going in the other direction taking part in what turned out to be "The White Rose Classic", a sportive ride. Seeing them coming up the extremely challenging hill from Beamsley most of us were pleased to be going the the opposite way! We then headed down to Ilkley for the usual friendly welcome at Avanti café. A few members of the group made the now customary visit to J.D.Cycles. It was then a brisk ride back to Otley where two members of the group opted for another café stop while the remaining cyclists continued homeward. A final, very welcome refreshment stop offering cold drinks and cheesecake was provided in the Margolis garden - thanks to Gia and Malcolm! JF

Medium ride. Ten riders set out on a impromptu journey to Boroughbridge The usual route was taken to Ripley, then onto Slate Rigg Farm and Newton Hall. Crossing the A61 we travelled through Nidd, then turned left onto the Ripon Rowel, which led us to Burton Leonard. From here we carried on to Bishop Monkton, and turned left to Boroughbridge. After coffee stop, we headed south to Aldborough, Grafton, Arkendale, Ferrensby and Knaresborough. Several different routes were taken back to Harrogate and home. PH

Short ride. A select foursome set off via the showground then across the Wetherby road towards Hookstone and Forest Moor Road to Abbey Road. Safely passing a goodly number of pedestrians on this fine morning we made it to Chain Lane and on by way of the back lanes skirting Hay-a-park to the Farnham turn off. Leisurely progress took us to the duck pond at Ferrensby where we spent a few minutes before partly retracing our route to Knaresborough and home. Just short of 20 miles and well done to our newest recruit on her first (of many?) Wheel Easy outings. CM

Off Road ride. Seven Wheel Easy members set off from Hornbeam Park in glorious weather, immediately joining the cycle track taking us from Hookstone Road through to Crimple Valley, near to the railway viaduct. As the bridge across the River Crimple has not been rebuilt we diverted along the path through the fields to Leeds Road and Pannal traffic lights to rejoin the track taking us from Follifoot Road to the Harrogate bypass. We then passed through Kirkby Overblow and took the steep descent from Barrowby and along a bridle path to Harewood Bridge. Those who dared lift their eyes away from the traffic on the bridge saw the large heron on the rocks to left of the bridge. We then had seven miles off-road taking us through the scenic landscape of Harewood Park and along the Leeds Country Way to East Keswick, where we took a slight detour to help Jeremy

with his house hunting!

Crossing Harewood Avenue we left the roads again for a steep hazardous descent to the footbridge over the River Wharfe, where we paused for a while for photographs. After climbing for a mile towards Wood Hall, Stewart and Neil opted for the short cut home via Kirby Overblow, whilst the remainder continued to Linton and a very pleasant al fresco coffee stop in the Shambles at Wetherby. We then joined the Wetherby-Spofforth cycle path and Higgs Road towards Harrogate. The sting in the tail then came with two final off road sections, the first a short fast section culminating in the deep mud and 'shhhhh-you-know-what' in the horse underpass under the Harrogate bypass (make sure you hose down your bikes very thoroughly, guys!!!!).

Finally 2 of us took the final off road section from Pannal golf course through the woods and a daring water splash across the River Crimple, before climbing up the bridle way back to Hornbeam Park for 3pm. Total mileage 30 miles, of which approx 15 was off-road. An exhilarating and enjoyable ride on a superb day, with some great views. I'm still trying to work out how Ben achieved it all on his new mountain bike which has no gears and no suspension. Surely I must have been dreaming!! EW



