

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 116



A bright and breezy day saw 13 riders set off on a favourite ride to Hampsthwaite, climbing up to Clint and Burnt Yates, and then taking the long gradient up to Brimham Rocks. The last long climb into the headwind was difficult and saw many of us enjoying the full range of gears and pushing the leg muscles hard. Is July supposed to have Force 8 winds?

The views at the top were fantastic and we could see several power stations and right across the Vale of York. Setting off from Brimham several of us took the rough track over the Moors while the skinny wheel set opted for the longer road route.

Then along the moors and dropping down by the Drovers at last we had a fabulous tail wind, and that saw us the whole way to Ripon and our usual stop at Spa Gardens Café. Then it was home via Bishop Monkton and Knaresborough. We covered about 45 miles and at a tidy pace in the blustery conditions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sue needed to have her new water camelback adjusting and fixing before we set off. Several male Wheel Easy members were trampled in the rush to help.
- OK so there were 3 power stations in sight from Brimham but there was a fundamental argument about which was which. Eric and Dave had to be separated, but we noticed that neither felt strongly enough about it to take the long hike up to the viewing table at the rocks.
- Dennis and Pauline decided that a chat was more interesting than the route across the moors and headed off down towards Pateley. Still, a few extra miles on a beautiful day is great.
- The collection of washing up in waiting following the Wheel Easy visit to the Sun Parlour Cafe was worth a photo. I only had 2 courses so what was everyone else eating? MW

Dennis stepped in to lead a medium ride at a genuinely medium pace and distance. Despite the cool wind 10 of us cycled on routes many of us have done before but not linked in the same order! This makes it seem like a new ride and we all enjoyed the route.

Sandie our honorary member from Haddenham in Bucks came with us on her third Wheel Easy ride and celebrated by biking up out of Knaresborough and up Drury Lane!

The route took us to Knox, Ripley, Brearton and in to the Mountgarret estate through to Burton Leonard. From there to Copgrove, Staveley, Arkendale, Goldsborough and for some a coffee stop on Waterside. Our leader left

us having called ahead to make sure his dinner was ready on the table when he got home! 32 miles. GM

Tony and I 'popped over' to Morecambe and one particularly foolish rider also decided to ride back, using an irresistibly encouraging strong westerly wind as justification for this rash decision. The other was tempted but finally stuck to his original intention and caught the train.

The route out was all on main roads which we would never normally use to Skipton, fine so early on a Sunday morning, but the following 15 miles of A65 to Settle was less pleasant. After coffee, we had our reward, a beautiful ride past Giggleswick School through the Forest of Bowland up to Bentham and then down through Wray, soon after joining the fine Sustrans track of almost 10 miles to a windswept Morecambe.

The return journey was much the same with only minor variations until Skipton, where a modest climb to Embsay led to the lovely gated road down to Bolton Abbey, then Beamsley, Ilkley, Askwith and as night fell, into Otley, completing the journey along the main roads with lights flashing, to arrive home at 11pm. MM



