

Sunday, July 27, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 117



Nearly 40 riders turned up at Hornbeam on a day which turned out to be one of the hottest of the year. It was good to welcome some new members. Malcolm Y enticed 18 of us to ride out to Appletreewick via Stump Cross. Eric suggested a loop to take us off the main road which gave us a wonderful swoop down to Thruscross and a long haul up the other side! The views were fabulous.

The group voted to head on to Appletreewick to the pub for lunch where cold shandies and beers were the order of the day. The views in this part of the Dales are exquisite, worth the hill climbs to see them at their best. Malcolm M carried on to Burnsall and Kettlewell while the rest of us rode down to Bolton Abbey which was heaving with people and far too many cars! A few of us opted out of the Storiths climb and later on the Askwith climb but all made it home after a wonderful day in the sunshine, a second tea stop at Otley for some and Fewston Parochial Hall for the others where they were made extremely welcome. Thanks to Malcolm for a lovely choice of ride. 55 miles GM

Nineteen riders set sail from Hornbeam Park on Sarah and Sue's 'snail trail' encompassing Burn Bridge, North Rigton/Almscliff Crag, Huby, Weeton, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow. The hills were frequent and often (no other word for it!) beastly, but we were rewarded with the magnificent local scenery which is second to none! Welcome, too, to one new member from Leeds.

Highlights along the way? At Burn Bridge we met an additional traveller with his parrot in tow, (orange), and of course the ladies in our group experienced the ultimate cycling accessory in the form of Geraldine's very practical cycling sandals, complete with red painted toe nails! The gauntlet has been thrown!!

The group split to return to Harrogate by various different routes. A very pleasurable ride - and thanks to Sue for her invaluable back marking! SE

