

Sunday, December 21, 2008

Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 139



Thirteen riders left Hornbeam on the medium ride. Martin set off at a good pace which ensured we were well spread out, good for motorists who wish to overtake a group of cyclists. We all assembled in Knaresborough where we were joined by four others who had looked at the website and noted we were going past Low Bridge.

After a few stories from Gia and Dennis we continued to Farnham, Ferrensby and Arkendale. We had by now split into two groups and each group made their way to Boroughbridge. The café did well to accommodate seventeen riders!

After refreshments Martin led a group back to Harrogate via Roecliffe, Copgrove and Lingerfield and covered about 35 miles.

Bill led a group of six to Helperby, Myton on Swale, Aldwark, Great Ouseburn, Arkendale and back to Harrogate. We covered about 50 miles and unfortunately my energy levels dropped near Knaresborough so I left the group in search of an energy boost. The Riverside Café was a welcome rest even though they would only serve me if I sang a carol! Once again a great day!

Extra note

Riding with Martin, Dave and Bill is always a pleasure as they know so many routes as well as the history of the area. The route led by Bill was excellent and he informed me about the White Battle at Myton which took place in 1319 on a site just outside the parish boundary, now known as Ellingthorpe Ings. Edward II was besieging Berwick, which had been taken by the Scots, when, to create a diversion, the Scots sent a force of 15,000 men under the Earl of Murray and James Douglas, who marched on York, burning and pillaging the country. An attempt is said to have been made by them to capture the Queen, then resident near York. To withstand them an army was hastily collected by William de Melton, Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Ely, the Abbot of Selby and Sir Nicholas Fleming, Lord Mayor of York. They pressed into service priests and peasants and pursued the invaders. The two forces met near the bridge at Myton and the Scots utterly routed the English, who fled in disorder, leaving a large number of dead on the field, many of whom were the priests in full robes who gave the skirmish its distinctive name; many of the fugitives were drowned in the river.

I also found out that the Aldwark Toll Bridge goes over the River Ure. Bill seemed particularly pleased to hear

this from the bridge attendant! Paul T

