

Sunday, November 1, 2009
Wheel Easy Ride Report 184



Our run of good fortune with the weather finally ran out when the consistently forecast 'torrential' downpour unfortunately proved highly accurate. I put the bike in the car for the short journey to Hornbeam, more than half hoping no one else would go. Fat chance - it's Wheel Easy!

When I arrived at 9.15 Jill was (of course) already waiting, and soaking, so was glad to take cover in the car. Next up was Steve W, but just out for a short morning constitutional, certainly no intention of doing anything as foolish as go on a bike ride! Just as we were considering whether to go home or for a coffee, more cyclists started to arrive. By 9.30, as the pictures show, there were 11 of us, (left to right) Joe, Geraldine, Sue, Phil, Eric (yes that really is him), Paul T, Jill, Dennis, Alison and Paul P, and below, me in the car just after taking this photo.

Dennis already had in mind a very 'spirit of Wheel Easy' ride round some of Harrogate's cycle paths and quiet streets. Alison and Paul P liked the sound of this and joined him while Paul T decided to complete a short loop round Ridding Park before returning home, no doubt to cook another gourmet meal from the rapidly growing repertoire he's acquiring at evening class.

The remaining seven splashed through endless puddles and streams of overflowing water to Knaresborough and the Riverside Café for very leisurely hot drinks and teacakes. I tried to think of and be inspired by Josie Dew, the extraordinary young cycling adventurer for whom a mere rainstorm would scarcely have merited a passing mention, but my leaking 'waterproofs' and sodden socks couldn't be ignored. (I've just read and recommend her book *The Wind In My Wheels*, though not everyone round the table liked her literary style) The rain outside eased a little and Eric and Phil decided to continue to Easingwold, Eric to

attend the North Yorkshire CTC AGM, Phil because he couldn't see any good reason not to. Five of us could see lots of reasons and headed back into Harrogate up the Knaresborough Road cycle path and down Bogs Lane. Only 8 miles, but each one well earned. Needless to say, the sun came out soon after we got home, but the strengthening wind will have made the ride back from Easingwold challenging enough. Malcolm

