

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers and Wheel Easy Ride Report
Under a grey sky and having musings re: possible black ice we set off en masse from Hornbeam station destination Boroughbridge. Within a minute of our departure we came close to losing our first member of the group at the temporary traffic lights, where a lady turning left obviously didn't think that cyclists on the main road had any right of way at all. Fortunately she stopped in time only to set off again and narrowly avoided taking out another two! I'm sure her haste to reach a driveway some 100 metres further on would have saved her all of 5 seconds. So on we peddled along Hookstone Chase in a flurry of snow which the lady in the pink hat and scarf on GMTV had told us would not arrive until later in the afternoon. However spring appeared to be in the air as by the time we reached Low Bridge at Knaresborough we definitely seemed to have multiplied. Out popped the sun and the ride towards Boroughbridge was becoming very pleasant despite some evidence of recent snowfall under wheel and patches of ice which we all circumnavigated with ease. Spring was then proved to be in the air when we stopped alongside a patch of celandines in bloom. Two of our party headed off back to Harrogate just before the rest of us descended on our coffee stop in Boroughbridge, most of us cycling but Martin walking due to the first puncture of the day. The central aisle in the café was quickly turned into a catwalk as Bridget, myself and Sue took turns trying on Yvonne's new over trousers. Each becoming increasingly worried that we would be the one for whom the zip wouldn't fasten. The debauchery continued as Malcolm knocked his coffee all over the table and almost ended up with a lap of hot soup in his haste to mop it up. We left the café in another snow flurry, imagining a cold return home but thankfully the sun battled hard again to break through just in time to save us a cold stop when I got the second puncture of the day due to a thorn from the newly cut hedgerow. Paul then proved that chivalry is not dead by appearing like a knight in shining armour pulling his yellow marigolds on. Puncture repaired we got back on our bikes ready to set off only to find that Sue too had a flat tyre. A replacement inner tube was summoned and Gia battled the long way back against a headwind not only to supply the new tube but Kendal mint cake too! She was hotly followed by Malcolm and Martin and with that welcome extra sugar boost we all headed back to Harrogate in the sun with 28 miles on the clock.

Angela

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EG's Ride Report

It was a cold day on the way down to Low Bridge. On the way Dave P was overtaken by Bill W, in view of the cold and us being early, it was in to Morrisons for a quick coffee. Back on the road we met up with Gia and the three of us continued to Low Bridge where there was a good turn out of Wheel Easy. The Wheel Easy Wednesday group then set off to Boroughbridge, the EG's waiting for the stroke of 10.

Then along comes Malcolm M, after a short chat he's on his way to catch the main group. Then the EG's Bill W, Dave P, Dave W, Peter B and Norman set off for Boroughbridge and Ripon. It seems the Minskips Ladies are no longer doing tea and biscuits so it was on to Ripon via Skelton on Ure.

Near Farnham there had been some inconsiderate hedge cutting with debris on the road fortunately nobody punctured and to be fair it had been swept up by our return. In Ripon the Spa Cafe was still closed so tea/coffee etc was taken in the cafe near the Cathedral. Whilst snug in the cafe we could see the snow flurries sweeping down the street. After tea the skies cleared giving way to sunshine and blue sky. Here Norman left to take the quick route back, and the remaining four headed north to Wath then Melmerby and Rainton, with good views of the snow on the North York Moors, the White Horse of Kilburn could not be seen, though it was pointed out that had it been the Black Horse of Kilburn it may have been visible. Then back via Norton Le Clay for a pit stop in Boroughbridge. It was sunshine all the way back to Harrogate despite a minor snow flurry. An excellent cycling day with the cold and sunshine. Total mileage around 55 to 57 miles. DP

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 723 YTD 7919



