

Sunday, October 10, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 233



Tree Planting Party! Big party, small tree. In the foreground is one of 2 trees newly planted at Hornbeam won by Wheel Easy in the Council's environmental BAFTERS awards.

Short Ride Report
The Perfect Ten !!

No, I'm not making any reference to Dudley Moore, the temperature, not even the fact I won £5;10 on the lottery last night, my dress size or the fact I can't count past the eight fingers and 2 thumbs for the number of riders, no today was 10-10-10 !! Quite an interesting day according to scientists - some say it's lucky some say it's not 101010 (base two (binary)) equals 42 (base ten). Oddly enough, this is evenly divisible by the number of days in the week (7 lucky) and equally oddly, is also evenly divisible by the number 6 (which is generally designated as being unlucky). Both a Ying and Yang situation seem to be incorporated by this date.

10
(base ten) = 1010 (base two)
(base ten): 10 x 10 = 100
(base two): 10 x 10 = 100

So, with the unlucky number of 13 riders, however you see this date, it was a very welcome return to Monica, new riders Diane and Penny, not quite so new riders Adrianne, Marish, Carolyn, Ali and Angela plus some regular faces Sarah and Jon, Sue D and Dave R. We enjoyed a very pleasant morning cycling from Hornbeam to the Showground, out onto Rudding Lane heading towards Follifoot and Spofforth. From here we cut across the busy Spofforth main road and headed off towards Little Ribston at a very gentle pace. With the sun now shining, such a contrast to the previous week, some headed off into Knaresborough for a cuppa whilst others cycled back towards the Showground and the remaining few, a more direct route to Hornbeam. A great morning thanks to all and well done to our 2 new ladies. Total 13 riders of an average 15 miles, probably only the ride leader did less than most leaving the group to head home! Sue T

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Medium Ride Report

The eight who made up the slightly faster medium group included first timers Neil and Adam, 'recent signings', Chris and Tim, as well as John W, Trevor, Malcolm and, as she observed with slight disappointment just one lady, Debby H. The leader's short attention span meant we left the planned route after about 100 yards and sailed along Wheatlands Road East, eventually reaching the Odeon just behind the supposedly slower group. With an effort we surged past and regrouped on Kings Road, then sped down Knox Lane to Spruisty Bridge just in time for a photo opp with the Pluses, a feat we repeated at the Joiners Arms in Hampsthwaite. As the sun started to make an appearance and hint at the glorious afternoon to come, we tackled the main climbs of the day towards Burnt Yates and Brimham Rocks, then the long downhill to Watergate Lane and Fountains. For most, this was the first time they had done this lovely route, and to do it on such a perfect day with magnificent autumn colours was a real bonus. By Studley visitor centre we were down to six, two riders having other commitments. The café as always was excellent (but not cheap) and fuelled us for the return climb back up past the gypsies then down the lane to Markington (a first, I think, for all of us), on to Bishop Monkton and home through Copgrove and Knaresborough. About 37 miles for those who did the full distance. Malcolm

Medium Slow Pace Ride Report

14 riders set out on a med-slow ride, taking in Knox, Hampsthwaite, Clint Bank, Burnt Yates and Brimham Rocks (break). Pressing on, we took the Warsill Warren route to the Fountains Abbey cafe for a well-earned cuppa. Two riders went straight home, so 12 resumed the ride, choosing the Studley Park route through Ripon and on to Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Copgrove, Knaresborough and the A59 back to Harrogate for 3pm. A memorable ride on a cracking day with a great bunch of riders. We covered about 37miles and my thanks go to Jo as back-marker for making my job easier. PeterB

Medium Plus Touring Pace Ride Report

Arriving to find yet another misty morning we set off toward Brimham Rocks hoping that the promised sunshine would eventually shine on us , we were not disappointed. Starting with 13 riders we gained and lost group members in equal measure meaning an average of 13.5 riders made the trip to Fountains Abbey. The glorious weather meant a spectacular swoop down the hill to Studley amidst the autumnal scene of leaves turning and scores of of deer. Cafe stop at Spa Gardens and then a new plan to extend the ride and make the most of a fabulous day returning home via Skelton, small detour to Newby Hall (thanks Steve)! On to Boroughbridge and back through Marton and Knaresborough making a healthy 50 miles a really enjoyable ride in good company. 13 X 50 miles Sue C

Medium Plus Fast Pace Ride Report

Being the first one of the group to leave Hornbeam Park I become the nominal leader of seven riders who volunteered to go on the medium ride at a faster. Not having an official leader all the decisions about route choice etc were by a majority vote, with myself having the casting vote. The group quickly made its way to Hampsthwaite, picking up William at Knox Bridge. The group then headed for Burnt Yates via Clint Bank but at this point the pace was too much for one of the group. Fortunately, we had a good Samaritan who stayed with her to complete the ride as a sub-group. Now we are six and maintained a brisk pace to Brimham Rocks and then to Warsill. On joining the main road we came across a Harley Davidson motorcycle club and they made a very impressive sight and sound. The group then headed for the Ripon Spa Gardens cafe via Fountains Abbey deer park and Studley Royal. As we finished our refreshments the touring group turned up just in time to clear away our dirty crockery. Onward to Littlethorpe, following a debate as to the best route. The weather now was almost perfect wall to wall sunshine and hardly any wind. All the riders arrived at Knaresborough via Bishop Monkton and Farnham and each went their own way home.

Peter

C

Jackson

Long

Ride

Report

8 of us set off on the long ride to Skipton, which coincided with the 6th Yorkshire Dales Vintage Bus Running Day and Vehicle Display. The weather forecast gave cause for optimism that the overcast conditions would improve, although there were no signs of it as we made our way up to Greenhow via Little Alms Cliff, Menwith Hill, and the long drag into the wind along Duck Street. We stopped for a brief rest at Greenhow, and then with our change of direction, we were delighted to find the wind behind us and clocked 42mph on the steep descent past Stump Cross Caverns - a suitable reward for the efforts up Duck Street. As we then turned off the main road towards Appletreewick, the low cloud lifted and sunlight filtered through the higher cloud bathing Wharfedale below us in a sublime hazy luminescence. I've said many times before that cycling in Wharfedale is my idea of 'cycling heaven', and today lived up to the very best expectations. The hazy sunshine, the long shadows, the autumn colours were all magnificent - sadly the camera can never do justice to such scenes, which is my excuse for returning and leading so many of my rides through Wharfedale!!!

We followed the River Wharfe from Appletreewick to Barden, where John, Richard and Nick set off for home via Bolton Abbey, whilst the remaining 5 of us climbed 500' out of Wharfedale to cross Halton Moor with great views of Airedale ahead, before dropping down through Eastby and Embsay to Skipton. We had lunch outside a cafe alongside the canal basin in the town centre, and spent some time viewing the old buses and coaches on display (see photos), and running free trips to Bolton Abbey and back. We returned via Embsay, Bolton Abbey, Ilkley and Askwith. We were so looking forward to taking afternoon tea in the sunshine outside the Cock Pit Farm Tea Room, so it was a massive disappointment when we found that it was closed for the day. However we did later find a cafe in the park in Otley to fix our thirst and replenish our calories before the final leg of the journey through Leathley, Stainburn, Almscliffe Crag and North Rigton, where we finally left the glorious views of Wharfedale. It was a shame the ride had to end, the ride had been so wonderful.

For the Captain's Log: from Hornbeam the round trip was 64 miles, so including the distance from home 5 riders had completed an average of 66 miles, and 3 averaged 56: a total of 498 for the day. Eric.

Long

Ride

photos

Off

Road

Ride

Report

A lovely autumn morning with a slight chill in the air. Ideal for a perfect Wheel Easy off road ride! I was surprised when six riders joined me and even more surprised that Phil had turned up on his shopping bike. We set off to Ferrensby via Hookstone Woods, Forest Lane, Calcutt. STUNTMAN Terry showed us how to fall off his new white bike safely, not once but twice. We continued to Ferrensby via the bridlepath to Bar Lane, where Ben stopped to tighten his chain. We were all in need of refreshments and headed for Waterside cafe, where we meet up with Sarah Everson and her mob. After a good chat we headed up Beryl Burton and home. We cycled approx 15 miles with good company and lots of laughs. Thanks all for a good ride it was a real pleasure. Darren

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	2631	YTD	120146
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