



Apologies to the three people I managed to convince today was not a day for cycling!!!! Today was the perfect day for cycling, sunny, blue skies and no wind, only the thick hoar frost was a problem and in an hour the roads could be clear. At 9.30 prompt Liz womanfully led the Poddlers off towards the sun. The Bats (Battenburgs) had decided on a new approach to their cafe marathons...go for coffee and cakes before you start the ride.....And four of us set off to walk briskly somewhere and then go for a chat and a nourishing cup of something. This we did and after an hour's quick stroll, we settled ourselves for the morning in Fodders, to put the world to rights again, and tactfully not to mention what a glorious cycling day it was. Sorry people, I will try not to be so wussy next frost filled morning. 4.23 miles x 4 people. Caroline G

Poddlers Ride Report

The Chief Poddler having opted to go walkies it was left to a select SIX (Liz + 5) who by common agreement set off for Low Bridge on a very nice if cold and frosty morning. We soon whizzed round to Chain Lane and picked up the fairly new cycle friendly path which took us round by the waterfowl lake then on to Farnham. Sur John, as is his wont, shot off to wait for the rest of us at the top then we were Copgrove bound. The off-road track took us within a couple of miles of Roecliffe and Boroughbridge where by majority decision tea and coffee were gratefully supped (this would not have been allowed if the absent leader had been in charge). Anyway during our brief stay K from K had the temerity to enquire as to who and what New Year resolutions had been made. There were only two responses. The other three declined and K from K carefully avoided answering his own question by collecting the cash for the drinks!

Unanimously we set off for home by the shortest route ie via Minskip and Staveley after which Sur John

duly surged at Farnham and K left us for Killinghall. Another, as ever, most enjoyable Wheel-Easy ride in good company. May the trend continue. Something like 28 miles so 168 in total. Crawford

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Shall we shan't we ride was the prevailing question as we gathered at Hornbeam?

Caroline had clearly rallied her troops and decided that they would walk not skate but some of the old faithful poddlers bravely went against her advice and set off to we know not where. Meanwhile the late arrival of Angela and Sarah stuck in traffic between Pannal and Hornbeam and Paul who had a puncture meant that the frost was going to be less of a problem. Treacherous comments were made that maybe winter rides should start later, since the historic vote to ride at 9.30 all year round was taken in the days when we were having warmer winters!!!

Martin boldly announced that our route should take us to Kirkby Overblow and Wetherby for a coffee stop at Costa. We had some slippery slopes on Walton Head Lane but what a great excuse to walk up those slopes! Costa in Wetherby was heaving which wasn't a surprise as Martin mentioned something about lots of points on his Costa card! Anyway everyone had such a good time there it took something to get us all going to get some cycling done. This was Tony's penultimate ride with us before he moves to ride with Cannock Chase. We wonder if next week he should choose his favourite ride for his last Wheel Easy outing?

Now the sun was really out and we motored up the A168 to Walshford, dropping Sue and Sarah who had appointments back in Harrogate. On to Hunsingore, Cattal, Whixley, Thorp Underwood, Great Ouseburn and the Dunsforths arriving nicely in Boroughbridge for lunch. We must be getting like the EG's. There some of us had Thai pumpkin soup that was so divine we didn't want to get to the bottom of the bowl. Bacon butties on doorsteps with home made chutney were also a hit.

Finally we decided we couldn't stay out until dark but sped home via Roelcliffe and then Martin led us at a great pace through Lingerfield and home. It was one of those days when you just wanted to keep pedalling. Is Spring around the corner? 9x 45 miles 2 x 25 miles. Gia

EG's Ride Report

It started and continued to be a brilliant cycling day, cold with blue sky as DP after a lay off fighting bugs and bad backs headed for Low Bridge. On Leadhall Lane a "ding ding" behind revealed a Malcolm M in shorts revealing naked knees, this is only possible because Malcolm takes a double shot of anti-freeze with his morning coffee.

At Low Bridge eight riders assembled. After a chat with some Poddlers and Kevin K who had returned from the States with a few extra inches on his waist line, it was decided to head for Beningborough and Home Farm Cafe as last Wednesday it had been Tadcaster. At Farnham a nervous DP asked if a coffee stop was needed before Beningborough, ie Boroughbridge. This was because the week before Dave W was classed as cruel because he made the EG`s cycle over 20 miles before allowing them to succumb to their caffeine cravings. At Newton on Ouse near confluence of the Ouse and the River Kyle (which in fact is nobbut a beck) the fields were flooded. The cafe was quite crowded with eight riders , two other gentlemen, and two very attractive mature ladies. The cafe or chocolate now comes in cup and saucers instead of paper cups and toasted teacakes and paninis are now on offer. Here we were regaled by John R with a tale about a naked man stuck in a bathroom with his finger stuck in a tap (yes it was his finger), the B&B owner did not seem too perturbed when he said that this happens often. This coming C2C tour could be interesting.

Peter B in anticipation of a good feed in York confined himself to a single hot chocolate, but being weak willed he accepted the three coffee biscuits he was offered. After saying farewells to the other cafe customers, the fit ones, Bill, Dave W, Eric, John E and Peter B headed for York and the cafe opposite Cliffords Tower. John R , Norman and Dave P (in a rare moment of common sense) decided to retrace the route back to Harrogate, for DP the after effects of bug fighting would have meant that while York was no problem, by Tockwith he would have been well and truly bug.....ed. A banana break was taken at Great Ouseburn before continuing in the sun back to Harrogate, the average mileage for all three would have been around 41 miles say total 121 miles. For the fit five a good sixty plus miles and loads

of calories, DP guessing here, in total 330 miles ? Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1074 YTD 6281



