



Sustrans Rangers Report

If any of you get the opportunity to use the underpass under the Follifoot By Pass you will be amazed at its transformation, in no small part to the grand efforts of Wheel Easy members and Rangers who did a great job yesterday clearing it out. In addition NYCC have supported the clear up by installing a new drain and kerbing on the Follifoot side and in the next few weeks another kerb and some path repair work will take place on the Pannal side. So any of you who have young families or hate the thought of crossing the bypass especially from the Follifoot side, do use the tunnel! Many thanks to all those who have helped with this project. Gia

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Poddlers Ride Report

Eleven poddlers departed from Hornbeam on a potential ride of 36 miles. Welcome to two new poddlers (sorry forgotten their names - due to senile decay!!)- to continue, we swapped greetings with the EGs at Low Bridge and continued to Coneythorpe via Goldsboro' and Flaxby. Leaving Coneythorpe we took the right hand fork, along a little used road and arrived at Arkendale. Here the length of the proposed route was discussed and a small group of 4 decided they needed to be home early, this group continued with us until the bridge over the A1(M) where we said goodbye. The remaining 7 continued via Marton, Gt. Ouseburn, Thorpe Underwood, Whixley, Cattal and Walshford then down the pathway alongside the A168 and into Little Ribston. Here another rebellion took place with 3 opting for a return home via Knaresborough leaving 4 to return home via the well worn route of Spofforth,

Follifoot and Rudding Lane. Sorry; there was nothing startling to report, just a fine ride with good company and pleasant weather. 7 riders @ 35 miles and 4 @ 25 = 345 miles total. John W.

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Angela arrived with a plea for no hills after some recent hilly excursions including a sportive on Sunday, but when Paul arrived and Cockpit Farm mentioned she was soon persuaded. So in the absence of any more men Paul set off with five ladies in tow. We met The Flying Bananas who were on an off road cycling trip heading towards Malham. We took photos for them before they disappeared in to Stainburn Woods. They all had huge packs on their backs which we feel sure that after half a day they would regret!

On to Fewston, Timble and over the moor to Askwith taking the Little Snowden route (Richard P please note!) At Cockpit Farm we had a leisurely break acknowledging the increasing numbers of cyclists stopping for tea and coffee. We met one lady in her 70's on her very treasured Hetchins bike which I believe is one that Dave P has. Paul was impressed when he heard she had a stable of four bikes. Home via Chevin Cycles who have gave us good service, replacing my treasured pink jacket which had split. 34 miles x6, quite hilly but very companionable and easy. PS nearly forgot to mention that we met up with an escapee from the EG's! Gia

EG's Ride Report

The forecast was not bad, sort of a grey day, with rain maybe. Whilst waiting at Low Bridge along came the Poddlers and others, determined to do some serious high speed Poddling, one minute they were there the next minute they were gone. Soon we had eleven riders Bill, Colin, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John E, John R, Norman, Peter B, Peter J, and Roy. Eric who arrived a few minutes before 10-0am was sent back and told to arrive at his usual time. Then it was on to Wetherby, on route (without a word of command) the group split into three, because of the heavy traffic. Soon we were into Morrisons cafe for caffeine and light snacks, though one EG who shall be nameless though shameless had a bacon and scrambled egg Bagel. The group then headed for Linton with Norman turning off to return via Sicklinghall. The climb from East Keswick to Wike doesn't get any easier and DP felt very much the weakest link. However there was no Anne Robinson to say weakest link goodbye, unfortunately for one moment it looked like it was going to be goodbye for most of us. A speeding car coming down the hill (blind corner), nearly hit a car climbing the hill momentarily lost control and headed for DP standing in a driveway, then towards a group on the other side of the road where Roy had stopped with a gear problem. It was scary, the resident of the property close by pointed to his wall that had been demolished a few times and various holes in hedges. He had been told by Leeds Council that they intend to place a speed limit of 30/40mph between Wike and East Keswick. I would suggest that Wheel Easy does not use this route to get to Slaid Hill from Collingham, especially midweek, there are other routes via Thorner or Scarcroft. John R left us at Wike to make his way home. It was good to get on the quiet roads round Eccup, then on to Bramhope to buy sandwiches to be eaten at the cricket club. It was bright and sunny on the Chevin Ridge before the swoop down to Menston and the climb up to Ilkley Moor. Before the summit was reached John E punctured and yet again (there's more to come). Sheep had strayed on to the road and again driving was rather stupid so Peter B knocked at a farm door to tell them of the sheep, no answer, they were probably watching repeats of Emmerdale. A stop was taken at the Cow and Calf rocks for tea and lollies, here Eric demonstrated his Yoga techniques (see photo) the rest admired the view and struck heroic poses (see photo). Again the puncture demon struck John E, but was sorted before we left the C & C then the decent into Ilkley, and yet again he struck. Now we had four riders in Ilkley and five on the moor. A message from Roy, carry on to Cockpit cafe we will see you there. On the way to Askwith Eric with the fast ones shot ahead to ask them to hold the cafe open. Dave P poddled slowly behind (do you like that Caroline?) only to be stopped by a woman in a car whose opening words were "I don't want to go to the police" ??? DP was not prepared for this. He was asked to look at a woman and child in a car who appeared to be asleep, this worried the woman. On getting to the car it was found to be empty, but as it was outside a house they must have gone inside.

Then on to Cockpit Cafe for tea and cake. A phone call from Roy told us that John had had 5 punctures and they were now at JD cycles for repairs and problem sorting, luckily Colin had his credit card with him as the problem didn't come cheap. The message also said carry on don't wait for us. Look at the weather over Ilkley Moor said Peter J, then it started to rain and it rained and rained over Leathley, Braythorn and Beckwithshaw. Once we were home and safe inside the rain stopped. But it had been a good ride of around 55miles but somewhat lumpy, with one EG slightly over extending himself. Mileage say $9 \times 55 = 495$ miles. $1 \times 32 = 32$, $1 \times 40 = 40$. Dave P

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1286 YTD 82940

