

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Poddlers Ride Report

Sitting here, watching the rain, I can't believe that it was just this morning that 20 Poddlers set off from Hornbeam in glorious sunshine! Given the numbers, several Poddlers were cajoled into following Flash Gordon along the agreed route. Liz P kindly 'volunteered' to take a middle group of 7. The rest of us set off at a more sedate pace.

The plan was to go to Farnham via Low Bridge, then Bishop Monkton, through Markington and onwards to the crossroads 'formerly known as the Drovers'. Then maybe Hampsthwaite. It was lovely to have so many new members all happy to go 'that little bit further'. Near Farnham, we encountered John W who had been forced to do an about turn with tyre trouble. It was certainly a beautiful morning and rural Yorkshire was looking its best. We'd soon covered quite a few miles- so much so, that a voice was heard to say- 'Wow, we're only 2 miles from Fountains Abbey'!

At the Drovers we found the middle group waiting for us. Several of them were keen to head home via Ripley and so they were able to guide the peloton back to Harrogate. Five of us eagerly set off on the rest of the route,

Bishop Thornton, Hampsthwaite and home. The possibility of Sophie's was raised. First, it was great DEscending Cut Throat Hill and Clint Bank and then arriving in Hampsthwaite. Once here, it transpired that James was the only one eager to patronise Sophie's. He was sadly about to set off when a cheery voice shouted, 'Aren't you stopping?'

It was Geraldine! [representing Flash Gordon's team]. James didn't need a second invitation! The remaining 4 of us set off again. Halfway up the hill we said our goodbyes to Keith and Helen and then Marish and I headed for Pennypot and home. All in all a beautiful ride in great company. Alison N

### Wheel Easy Ride Report

I am writing today's ride report in the comfort of the warm and dry as outside it is now dark and throwing it down with rain.

We had a fine day's ride having made the right decision to aim for a two o'clock return.

I decided as it was such a good day and I was the only one to have done Sunday's ride to Brimham that we should head that way. We had a brief stop at Hartwith Toll Bridge where the real reason emerged - I had left my camera case there on Sunday and there it was on the wall amongst the ivy!

The ride to Brimham is one of our best, especially on a fine summer morning. Kevin feeling decisive then chose the Wilsill option and not long after we were able to sit out at Spa Gardens enjoying all the home-baked, jolly good value cakes.

Home via Bishop Monkton and Lingerfield, just in time to beat the rain. About 40 miles. Great ride. Gia

### EG's Ride Report

Not a bad start to the day though forecast was rain at 2.00pm.

The gathering at Low Bridge was predominantly Poddlers plus other Wheel Easy riders.

By the stroke of 10 am the EG`s had an eleven, so destination where to ?, Colin as always with an eye to the weather (having survived a solo outing in the Irish Sea) suggested a north easterly direction.

Obvious choice Easingwold, next question first coffee stop ? Angela's ? or Tasty Snacks ?.

This was too many decisions for the EG's, "my brains hurting already " said Dave S, but Angela's it was.

At Arkendale Dave P (not his day) rang ahead, we will be there in half an hour, fifteen mins later we were there, for a lot of toasted teacakes.

It was here that John R was attacked by the guard dog (see photos), then it was on to Grafton and Lower Dunsforth.

At Boroughbridge Eric and JR left us to return, and Roy almost made it to the door of Tasty Snacks, before being put on his bike and made to follow the others to Brafferton.

Here Bill (not wanting to get caught in the predicted 2.00pm downpour) and Bob left to return via Aldwark.

The remaining seven (hold that number) headed for Easingwold, and of course up went the pace, it was poetry in motion said John E, however communication became a slight problem as some riders instead of going to the front, thought they had to turn right, this did not involve DP and Roy who had already fallen off the back.

As usual the lunch in Temptations was very pleasant, and John E regaled us with tales of his boyhood and the attempt on the downhill speed record for an electric milk float, the subsequent crash and destruction of the cargo brought forth the usual comments, crying over spilt milk, milking the story, lost his bottle etc, which are best forgotten.

Before setting off DP did a head count and got nine for seven riders, obviously two people have two heads.

On to Aldwark Bridge (wind assist) with Dave W taking the stage win at Alne, just before Aldwark Bridge it was pitter patter raindrops and capes on.

No banana break was taken at Branton Green but a short stop at Marton and then home.

The rain which amounted to drizzle and short showers was not a problem and we were home before the big downpour.

Most riders would have been on 50 plus miles. Dave P

### Away Day Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival Ride

Nine riders met in Grassington ready to do the circular ride to Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival. Torrential rain was predicted for the early afternoon and so everyone was keen to get off whilst it was dry.

Unbelievably given the Yorkshire Dales' hilly reputation this ride had virtually no climbs as the route followed the valleys along the river Wharfe. At a gentle pace we meandered down country lanes, enjoying the views of the limestone hills as we went.

The Scarecrows were a delight. Splitting up into twos and threes we set off around Kettlewell. We had lots of laughs as the Scarecrows were topical, somewhat political and largely on an amusing theme. Most impressive was the presence of a Bradley Wiggins Scarecrow, complete with his famous lengthy sideburns. He took pride of place and offered us a celebrity photo shoot we couldn't resist.

Aware of the predicted rain we set off on our return journey along the quiet lanes arriving back in Grassington just in time to feel the first spots starting to fall as the ride ended, to quote Sarah 'perfect timing'.

Thanks to all those who made the journey over to Grassington. Ride length 21 miles. Lynda N.



