

Sunday, April 7, 2013

Wheel Easy Ride Report 362



Short Ride

No fewer than 17 of us chose the short ride today, some at least attracted by the opportunity to cycle the Nidderdale Greenway for the first time. Welcome to our 3 first timers, Alistair, Ursula and Stephen. We repeated Paul R's idea from last week, using the Stray paths to reach Silverfields Road and joining the long established bridleway down the ramp from Bogs Lane. At Bilton Lane we stopped for a photo and chatted with a couple on their 3 seater 'triplet' tandem, carrying their dog in a trailer! This was the first of many unusual transports we saw along the new and very busy path to Ripley – quite a few tandems, a teenage girl relishing the tarmac with enviable ease on inline skates, young children on tag-a-longs and on bikes attached to their parents' bikes, and lots of very small children having a fantastic time on their little bikes, some with and some without stabilizers. At Ripley several preferred to carry on past the castle along the ancient lane through Hollybank Woods and head for Sophie's while Trevor, mission accomplished (he was out to experience the Greenway), turned back home. The rest of us stopped for drinks at the Boars Head, then we too returned along the Greenway but added an extra loop up the Beryl Burton section of Bilton Lane to Knaresborough Road and back to Harrogate along Bogs Lane. A lovely relaxed ride of about 14 miles. Malcolm



Medium Ride

Twenty-three takers for the medium ride to Fountains, it seems the original ride route taking in Timble still had some snow, deep and crisp and even, verified by photographic evidence courtesy of Paul T. Gordon then led us through Harrogate to Asda car park and the cycle path to Ripley. The pace was deliberately kept low, as 23 cyclists could be seen as intimidating if perceived to be moving fast. Cyclists, walkers, dog walkers and horse riders all behaved with care and consideration to each other, the only exception was a jogger, in the middle of the path (which meant he could suddenly move either left or right) who had his ears bunged up with earphones and noise, and actually could not hear people addressing him when they were level with his shoulders. Then it was on to Ripley, up the hill on the right along the ridge and down to Watergate to the Fountains Abbey visitor centre for coffee. During the ride some of the older riders, feeling some caffeine deprivation enquired of Gordon where the first coffee stop would be taken, so the visitor centre it was. The return was via Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton and Farnham. The roads

were dry, the wind was kind, not too hot or cold. Excellent days cycling around 34 miles. Dave P pp Gordon.



Medium Plus Ride

There were 12 in our group setting off for Myton-on-Swale. We collected Paul B in Arkendale and with the sun on our backs rolled along to Great Ouseburn where two left to return via Little Dunsforth. Already we had travelled along routes new to some which is always a bonus. The trip to Myton-on-Swale is an historic feast and we enjoyed a banana break reading the information boards, discussing the appropriate use of the apostrophe and the relative warmth of the day. Our route then took us past the surprise of a chateau type house we believe to be owned by a certain supermarket supremo, then past vast stables, woodlands and on to Helperby Hall with more massive well decorated walls surrounding the gardens. Finally to Boroughbridge through Cundall and Norton le Clay and a well-earned café stop. We found the café at the hairdressers, Café Chez Nous, open and very welcoming and warm enough to sit outside. Other cyclists were also stopping

there. Sue T left us here to return home via Minskip, Paul B left on the Copgrove run with the remainder completing the route via Bishop Monkton, Markington, Ripley and The Nidderdale Greenway. Here we met Malcolm who was happily chatting with the many families using this wonderful path. Great route, really interesting villages and so nice to return via a traffic free path. 55 miles. Gia



A large gathering had assembled for the medium plus ride today and so having taken instructions from Gia regarding the 'must-do's' of the day six of us departed from Hornbeam in advance of the main group. Having decided to take the alternative route through Goldsborough, which we accomplished with only one missed turn and safely navigated the crossing of the A59, we rode at a good pace until reaching our mid-point destination of Myton - a first for a number of us. We stopped at the bridge for a short while chatting to the locals before continuing onto Boroughbridge and a café stop at Tasty Snacks with Terry putting us to shame with his tuna sandwich whilst the rest of us chose bacon, sausage, egg or chips. There was a discussion as to whether we should

extend the route to Ripon but eventually we agreed to stick with the plan and head back to Harrogate via Bishop Monkton, Markington and Ripley. James, on his first ride with Wheel Easy, did remarkably well on his heavy bike but was looking rather enviously at Terry's new carbon fibre steed by the time he left us at Drover's crossroads. Another first for some of us on our to do list today was to safely negotiate the Nidderdale Greenway, a new and popular route for families, dog walkers and cyclist of all ages. 51 miles travelled in excellent weather conditions and great company. Martyn B



Long Ride

Eight riders set off from Hornbeam Park heading towards Knaresborough where we picked up an additional rider. For once there was little wind and was warmer than of late. It was an uneventful ride passing through Boroughbridge, Thornton Bridge, Carlton Husthwaite, Husthwaite, Coxwold, and Byland Abbey. When we arrived at Wass there was a choice of taking the main road to Ampleforth or going via Wass Bank. There then followed a scene reminiscent from the film 12 Angry Men. Initially only two of the nine riders were prepared to tackle Wass Bank, but as the discussion continued riders changed their minds until all nine were prepared to tackle the climb. All nine riders completed the climb and were rewarded with magnificent views across the North York moors. It was then on to Ampleforth Abbey Tearooms for some sophisticated fare. We returned to Harrogate at a steady pace via Oswaldkirk, Gilling East, Yearsley, Easingwold, Great Ouseburn, and Arkendale, with a brief tea refuelling stop at Easingwold. Peter J

