

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Daffodil Ride.

13 poddlers rode out this morning to Bishop Monkton and posed for the official photographer among the daffodils. A bit of sunshine would have helped but it wasn't raining! From here Dennis led a group of 4 back via Markington and Ripley, completing about 24 miles. It was still early and the rest of the group took up the option of doing some extra miles into unknown territory! We passed through Ripon and then turned off to Sharow. Sur John had been once before so was able to help with the route but we missed the turning to Marton-le-Moor as the road resembled a cart track! Most of us turned back to take the road but Richard, Max and Gordon headed on and battled their way down the A168. Richard and Max were next seen at Tasty Snacks by which time Billy Whizz was probably putting his feet up at home! We crossed the bridge over the A1 and headed down into Boroughbridge, battling against the headwind so on arriving in Boroughbridge only 1 turned down seeking sustenance! We returned via Staveley and then Lingerfield to avoid the long stretch of roadworks outside Knaresborough. To avoid a hill, Richard diverted via Ripley to inspect the new statue of Malcolm. About 39 miles, dry but a bit windy. Thank you Dennis and Sur John for your help. Liz



Wheel Easy Ride

The sunshine they promised never appeared, but at least the wind kept the rain away! From Hornbeam, past "Margolis Towers" to the cycleway by Rosset school playing field....up to the roundabout, then on Beckwith Road, Otley Road, the bridlepath through the council plant nursery to Harlow Moor Road, and all the way up Penny Pot Lane.....which was "closed to traffic"...not that I noticed the sign, but the lack of traffic was nice. Odd seeing just the bottom of the wind turbines, their heads in the clouds. Great Spotted Woodpecker just after the Army College. Right and immediately left at the end of Penny Pot Lane (Bedlam Lane....but at least a tractor waited for us!). Left and right to the A59, and left onto the A59 and right off it, past the little cemetery, past the Navy wireless station, right onto Greenhow Hill Road, and second right on "My Love Lane" (on the OS map, anyway!)....after waiting for some keen souls who had forged ahead and got in an extra mile! Down the lane to the bottom, where left and immediately right down past Thornthwaite church, a pretty little lane that some had not ridden before, there is a rather lumpy ford at the bottom, and a packhorse bridge up stream.....although its marked as a footpath...? Pair of Jays in the trees by the beck. Then up the hill past the Scout camp, right then left to join the road past Yorke's Folly (or Two Stoops). Even on a grey and windy day, that's a nice place to be. Down Two Stoops to the amazingly cheap Café in the cattle market....mug of tea and chunk of home-made

cake £1.50....the tea bread was well received! Even after lashings of tea and cake, there were no takers for Brimham on the way back, so it was the back lane through Bewerly to Glasshouses, then the main Pately road as far as the millpond, down the bridlepath (toll-free for bikes) to Birstwith, then Clint Bank and Hollybank Lane to Ripley, and home on the Greenway. Wood anemones in hollybank wood, and along the greenway, cowslips along hollybank lane. Despite protestations of tired legs at the start, everybody seemed to get round OK.....unless we left somebody out there..... Colin



EG's Ride

The day started with rain and then a phone call. "I'm in my dressing gown" said Norman, "watching the rain", for those of a nervous disposition, stop visualising right now. For once the forecast was correct and the rain stopped, so for one EG it was out of gown and into lycra. Whilst waiting for the gathering at Low Bridge we were joined by the Poddlers, which included Richard Pugh. Good to see you back on your wheels Richard. Soon we had an eleven, seeing as the wind was quite strong, and after consultation with our sailors, it was decided to head for Wetherby and beyond keeping the wind on our flanks and behinds. The B6164 can be busy mid week so it was three groups to Morrisons cafe. After refreshment and putting the world to rights, it was cycle path to Thorpe Arch trading estate, then Wighill and Healaugh, just before Angram we were left by Colin, Dave W, Dave S, Eric, Peter B and Peter R who felt the siren call of York and headed in that direction. The less fit or faint hearted or more sensible ie Bill W, Dave P, Peter J, Norman and Theo, (now back on fixed) made for Long Marston, Tockwith and Cattal (not now under water), but with a splendid display of Daffs all over the village, in fact the Daffodils in this area seemed better than those north of Ripon. The journey north to Angela`s cafe seemed effortless with the wind on/or in our backsides. After more excellent sustenance, it was home via Arkendale and Farnham, feeling pleased with ourselves, as seeming to have outwitted the wind. No doubt it will get us another day. Max mileage (for us) not the "A" team around 51miles. Dave



