

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Our first stop was Little Almscliffe where 3 poddlers returned home due to other commitments, while another was last seen chasing after Gia! 9 of us continued through Stainburn Forest and then downward to Leathley, passing new lambs and calves as well as bluebells and other wild flowers. Rumour has it that there was a performance by a Poddler cabaret act at Leathley! Onward to Castley, Dunkeswick and Kirby Overblow, the sun came out and the Wharfedale scenery was there to be enjoyed. There was a slight blip when I thought Max had got lost on the bypass but we all made it to the Showground entrance where the group disbanded, some to go to the pub to ask for a glass of water!! About 27 miles. Paul made an excellent back marker. Liz



Wheel Easy Ride

Colin, Sir John, Bridget, Sarah, Gia, Paul T, Peter, Sue and her new bike (drops and all) set off to Cock Pit Farm via Timble. Cloudy day to start off with but pleasant with not too much wind and thankfully the wind was behind as we ascended the heights to the top of Askwith hill. An exhilarating swoop down to the cafe stop for scones and coffee. Needing to burn off the unnecessary calories we set off via Lindley for the hilly way home the sun had burnt through by the time we got home a very pleasant jaunt. 1925 feet ascended -29 miles. Sue C



Every group seemed to be heading west from Hornbeam today, so the four person group led by Richard took a fairly circuitous outward route via Dob Cross with the aim of creating some separation of groups. It almost worked but then there was a brief encounter with the Poddlers and others en route to Beckwithshaw. Our group comprised Richard, David R, John and Terry S and headed for Ilkley for a coffee stop, but with some hills to add bite to the appetite. The B6161 from Beckwithshaw to Leathley can be a dubious pleasure at times owing to fast traffic, or at least traffic with the intention of going fast. Today, however, traffic was mainly light and reasonably patient and the turn on to Pool Bridge was without interruption. How many can say that? Old Pool Bank was the first serious encounter of the day, complete with helpful advice from locals about the next bit being the worst! The next landmark was the sadly forlorn closed Royalty pub, still with no sign of a future. The West Yorkshire Cycleway route was followed as far as Menston, but rejoined again after the climb to the moor road was over. Once past the Cow and Calf, we began our descent into Ilkley - taking care on the cattle grid - where the always impressive Christ Church cafe was the coffee stop. Pasty and beans for two of our party indicated this was an early lunch stop for them, while the other two stuck to tea and buns. David left us to go shopping for some new breathable kit, while the rest thought that the climb from Askwith over Snowden Crag might be fun. So it was. Before that, however, a brief visit was made to see Heathcote, the Arts and Crafts style Lutyens house, in King's Road Ilkley. Sadly all we could do was admire the quality of the padlock and chain on the gate, while wondering how much we would be prepared to offer for the house. Apparently, its sale last year attracted a bid of over £2m. After High Snowden, we were back along familiar roads through Fewston, past the Sun Inn and Stainburn Forest to Beckwithshaw. Along the way John gave his farewell and skooted off home to his one-month-old twin boys. Lucky man. Conditions had been dry but cool and breezy for most of the ride. Once over Harlow Hill, however, it was suddenly summer, offering us a warm final couple of miles back into town. Stats: 44.3 miles; 3350 ft of ascent (or 71.4 km and 1020 m if you prefer). Terry Smith



EG's Ride

Tuesday evening the forecast looked good, 7-00am Wednesday morning it was not good, 8-00am it was looking better, if it looked like the weather could not make up its mind, the fourteen EG`s were not indecisive, straight to Angela`s cafe for toasted teacakes and wait to see what the weather gods had in store for us. After refreshment it was still cloudy but small patches of blue could be seen, the intention was to head for York and circle it in a clockwise direction which gave us a few options for for a quick return home if the weather turned awkward. At Great Ouseburn Norman and Roy left us to return home via another route, the remaining dozen headed for Beningbrough, Haxby and Towthorpe to cross the A64 to Warthill, it was here the Colin and John R decided to head north to Easingwold (obviously to meet some "chicks" in the care home). The remaining ten continued on to Dunnington and Elvington where afternoon tea was taken in the NAAFI of the air museum, then it was on toWeldrake in the sunshine, to Naburn to join the York/Selby cycle track. The route home was now so familiar that even the bikes can find their way home. A short break was taken at Marston Moor memorial, this is where Glyn headed for Wetherby and Leeds, the remainder back to Knaresborough and Harrogate in the sun with some wind , however turns were taken to head the pelaton and push the wind thus making it a lot easier for all. Maximum mileage for the Harrogitonians around 81 miles, though Glyn would have done well over the ton in returning to Leeds. Best wishes and good luck to Glyn from the EG`s for his coming interview. Dave P.



