

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

Following Flash Gordon to Low Bridge at a rubber burning speed, eight of us decided that a more moderately paced ride would be in order. Waving goodbye to the faster group we continued at a more gentle pace along Abbey Road, round by the ponds, through Scriven, Lingerfield, Farnham and Minskip to Boroughbridge. After a quick convenience stop, we headed back home via Rocliffe. Bishop Monkton and Markington and a lovely downhill run to Ripley and the wonderful Greenway. An enjoyable 34 mile ride with a good compact group.

### Wednesday Ride Report

As we gathered at Hornbeam in the sunshine and I heard the words Stumps Cross, I cowered and prayed that Paul and Malcolm's wish to go back to Oliver's Pantry in Ripon would appeal to others. There was no way I was trekking up Duck Street again this week after Sunday's epic ride. So six of us tempted by the lure of the best chocolate brownies in Yorkshire and later confirmed by excellent coffee all round, Ripon and Oliver's Pantry won the day. The café stop also gave our entrepreneur, Marian, an idea for a Wheel Easy promotion. Watch this space! Paul, Malcolm and Joe rescued Marian's day by making her bike safe and ride-worthy, and in the lovely warm sunshine we mingled briefly with the EG's and the Poddlers. Malcolm led us back via the Mountgarret route which is a favourite of Dennis' and for some this was new territory on lanes we haven't used for years. Nice photo of our group at the ford. Home along the Greenway which is now our default route home and 35 enjoyable miles in great company. Gia M



After some discussion it was decided to do a CK designed route (No not Calvin Klein but a Colin and Kevin creation). The basis of this route was to get to Stump Cross Caverns and then work it out from there! So the Stump Cross Six (Kevin, Colin, Martin, Neil, Monica, and Martin's daughter Nick, who joined us en route from Birmingham to Brisbane) set off via Beckwithshaw and Norwood, then across the A59 and through the Forest Moor Monitoring station and then we made the long climb to Greenhow to Stump Cross. At this point the group decision was to make to Hebden for coffee/lunch so more up and down followed before we tucked into a various choices from Sandwiches to Apple pie (to be honest the service was a bit slow) so it was a longer stop than normal. However it did give us time to peruse Monica's JOGLE route and be very impressed with what she planned to tackle! Back on our way we spurned the tempting pubs in Appletrewick and after Martin fixed his self-inflicted mechanical problem we made for Bolton Abbey, via the Cavendish Pavilion and then, after crossing the A59 again we made for Ilkley and onto Cockpit

Farm for an afternoon tea break. Service was speedy and refreshments were excellent and so we once again set off along the Valley (having spurned the uphill options!) to Castley and then Dunkeswick, over the A61 and then with tired legs we tackled the climb into Kirkby Overblow. From there took the option of Walton Head Lane down into Pannal where Neil left us and then back into Harrogate via Pannal Ash where we all dispersed for home. A hilly 60 mile ride with two excellent stops, great company and a good workout, which we hope helped Monica's training. Kevin D

A route taking in Timble and possibly How Stean failed to tempt any takers from the main group, so it was just Lesley, Richard S and Terry who set sights on Timble's coffee morning. Preferring to work up an appetite first, the group followed an energetic path via Brackenthwaite Lane, North Rigton, Stainburn and Leathley. Through Otley, leaving Cock Pit Farm for another day, we climbed out of Askwith over the top of the moor, arriving in Timble at 11.30. On the way we were greeted by three women cyclists who urged us to hurry to the coffee morning - had they eaten all the cakes?!

We needn't have worried, as we were presented with a plate of cakes each and served by the cheerful crew. The scones, the ginger cake and the banana loaf were the main hits. Suddenly the place was empty and the crew were hovering for our crockery. Be warned, the 12.00 closing time is strictly observed.

Discussion over maps turned attention away from How Stean to Pateley. A hilly section past Thruscross led to Yorke's Folly and the descent to the Bewerley turn. Today the road was a little more crowded than usual, with three young gents tackling the climb ahead of some almost-patient drivers.

Having stoked up with cake at Timble there was no great clamour for another stop in Pateley, so sights were set for the church cafe in Ripley. Progress down the valley road was far from smooth while the current crop of roadworks proceeds, but the excellent scone, gateau and plum cake at Ripley soon cheered us up. The return to town was a restful pedal along the Greenway. The stats for the ride show that all the cake was justified: about 50 miles with 4200 ft of climbing. A pleasant day out. Terry S





### EGs' Ride Report

There was a fair old number of riders at Low Bridge at the gathering of the Wheel Easy clans at Low Bridge, lots of friendly chat, with Norman on bike examination. A text from Eric as he got to Garsdale Head after the one hour climb from Sedbergh he knew he was playing with the big boys as Colin, Phil, PJ and PR put in an extra loop. Away went Wheel Easy Wednesdayers leaving thirteen EG`s but before we could get away Norman punctured, no probs, a quick fix then away south on the B6164 where the group fragmented on purpose because of the traffic, reforming as two groups after Little Ribston , one fast one slower heading down Rudgate to Tadcaster and Tykes Tearooms for Toasted Teacakes. After sustenance taken in our own room, Barry Mac, Norman and Bob returned home (hope the day went well Bob and you took it steady). Then on to Ulleskelf and Cawood where Chris and Nick crossed the Ouse to head north for York. The rest continued to Selby via Wistow, the Ouse was again crossed, however Dave S (who had a date with that famous son of Knaresborough, Blind Jack) and Michael continued north to Barlby and the cycle path to York. The remaining six (super six ?) Dave P, Dave W, Marvin, Peter B, Rob and Terry headed east. The forecast was good, the nights are drawing in, so as the old Romans used to say when they were up for it Carpe Diem. Along the Trans Pennine Trail with the Ouse (flowing upstream for once) on the right hand side, in places the surface being as bad as when Bill W and Dave P headed for Hull and Holland all those years ago. Through Hemingbrough with its big pointy spire to Barmby Barrage and the three dead end villages, Barmby on the Moor, Asselby and Knedlington then on to Howden for lunch in the sun. Howden being one of the few places other than York which has a Minster and a pleasant little square with flowers and seats, very nice. Then the return, out via the A63 with a right turn to Wressle and its Castle keeping the Derwent on our left, on to Brighton and Bubwith, crossing the Derwent on the A163 then right to North Duffield, Skipwith and Escrick, on the A19 for a short distance before heading for Naburn to pick up the Selby/York cycle path to York. Since leaving Howden Marvin and Peter B had lead the group at a steady agreed on pace, no one went off the back and the miles flew by, excellent piece of riding (thanks chaps). At York Dave W left us to return home for a hot roast the remaining five to Tesco`s cafe. During the ride phone calls had been made to loved ones (and wives) to adjust the ETA`s of the EG`s, to avoid the classic line "hello you are late your dinner is in the dog". After late afternoon tea it was back to Harrogate, the bikes know the way, and the pace was good and in order. Slight drizzle coming in to Harrogate, who cared a fantastic day with a high mileage well over 80 miles with those living in east Harrogate topping 90 miles.

For a couple of the older EG`s this was the years maximum mileage (well done Terry, keep it up). So after Dave P`s long flat one are we up for Martin & Yvonne`s 100 miler?. Thanks to all thirteen riders for their group riding skills it made everybody`s day. Dave P

