

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride Report

Nine poddlers joined me on the route ending at Ripley. Given the abundance of traffic lights along Hookstone Rd, I had suggested to Able- Backmarker Pugh that we leave Hornbeam via the bridleway to Fulwith Mill Lane and thence across Leeds Road and Mallinson to Leadhall Lane. However, Alison's coccyx suggested that could be a bit bumpy so we stuck with the original plan and crossed Leeds Rd at M&S Corner and headed towards Church Lane. There had been signs re road works in Pannal but with hybrids, schwalves and gutsy determination, we plunged down into the village avoiding raised ironwork (housewives' salute?) trenches and ditches not to mention fallen slimy leaves. Some very kind roadmen conducted us across the road and we assembled by St Robert's Church to scale the heights to Follifoot Riding Centre and on to Spofforth Hags. It was raining but signs of blue sky began to appear and by the time we reached Spofforth, David was regretting his decision to leave the Factor 50 off. On reaching "Mucky Paws – open all hours", I asked "Calendar Boy Graham" if a suitable photo containing the word "mucky" would suffice to show dear readers how Poddlers cope with adverse conditions. Able backmarker Pugh set up her tripod and shot. However, no time for banter, as clouds were gathering so we set a cracking pace to Little Ribston, Wetherby Rd, Knaresborough. Michelle provided entertainment for passing drivers described by her as having "to pull them down to get them off". Obviously her waterproof overtrousers!! We hurtled through Scriven, Lingerfield and Scotton but by the time we reached the outskirts of Brearton, the wind was whipping us into a frenzy. Things were pelting us from trees and the roads were covered in falling leaves. Undaunted, we pedalled on to Ripley where seven settled for coffee at Sir Thomas's and Mr and Mrs 42 today Graham and I continued home via the Greenway. Liz nobly agreed to make sure everyone returned safely. Thank you everyone! Sue D





Wednesday Ride Report

Six optimistic riders met at Hornbeam this morning in the light drizzle, with the promise that the rain would clear and not return in great force until 2pm. Richard was elected ride leader and had a cunning plan to get us to Boroughbridge but by a route that was to be new to us all. Unfortunately he had failed to notice that none of us were on mountain bikes, but intrepid as we are, we all shot off after him, the drizzle stopped as promised and it was not long before we left the tarmac to discover bridal paths previously unknown to us all. Although a bit muddier than expected the views were lovely, deer were spotted and Martin temporarily morphed into a ballerina doing probably the most graceful fall from a bike ever seen AND avoiding the deep muddy puddle to his left. Blue sky appeared and we were all in great spirits when we arrived for refreshments at The Old Foundry in Boroughbridge. After we had discussed at length the relative merits or not of camping sites around Europe we left to find actual sunshine was beaming down and the three of us least pressed for time decided to extend our ride a little and return via Markington and Ripley. It was a stiff headwind that accompanied the sun but we were not thwarted and even stopped on the greenway for a chat with the ordinance survey man who was putting the greenway onto the map despite the difficulties of acquiring GPS signal through the dense tree canopy. Had we not been so chatty we would probably have made it back ten minutes before the rain that arrived promptly at 2pm, but at least the rain made a good start on washing the mud from our bikes. Angela P



EGs' Ride Report

With the rain driving against the windows, bed seemed the best place to be. However wimps are not allowed in Wheel-Easy, so Lycra was girded to loins before heading down Leadhall Lane and Hookstone road past lines of frustrated drivers and into Hornbeam car park for monies for Paul, and a quick chat with Sue D, Gia and Bash then back on the road where some of the drivers vented their frustration on anybody moving faster than them, which included old men on cycles in bottom gear and pedestrians with Zimmer frames. At 9.55am at Low Bridge it looked like DP was going to be "johnny no mates" however by 10.00am we had a magnificent seven, not bad for the weather, but there was a promise from the south. So! Guess what? South to Wetherby and Morrisons and wait for the silver linings in them clouds. Here Bill W, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, Peter B, Peter R and Norman took sustenance soon to be joined by a large number of cyclists from York CTC. At one point Peter B left the table to make a phone call (see photo) what about we can only guess, eg 1. Wheres my bike ?; 2. Where am I ?; 3. Who am I ? In the group photo Dave W looked particularly angelic (wings but no halo). With patches of blue now in the sky it was south again to Bramham, East Rigton, Collingham and Wetherby. Where are we having lunch said Dave W, it would have been easy to go back to Morrisons, but too many treats would only spoil the EG`s, so they were forced to head up the old Great North Road to Angela` cafe for a late lunch in the sun with it on our backs. In a full cafe the world was put to right in an hilarious manner, We then left an empty cafe to head for Boroughbridge, Roecliffe, the bridle path to Copgrove, Farnham, Knaresborough and Harrogate with only a hint of rain on the way. Seven riders set off and seven returned together, a 100%er not bad. Counting up to ten is easy, over ten difficult, especially when you are wearing overshoes. Max mileage around 52 miles. Like last Sunday another unexpected weather bonus. Dave P.

