

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride Report

There was a hurricane blowing outside, it was grey, the rain was lashing down or was it sleet, the house was freezing, I had lost the duvet to the other half of the bed, things were not boding well for any sort of activity, never mind getting up. However being the plucky trouper that I am and having just had Christmas...(and Christmas in this family means far too much eating) I made an executive decision to get up and dress in the cycling outfit and then we would have to ride a bicycle sometime during the day. Within half an hour the sun seemed to be glowing and the wind had dropped and there were about 17 people standing enthusiastically at Hornbeam raring to go. They had, of course, heard that the marathon walking, channel swimming, tour de Harrogate winner, iron man El Butler was singlehandedly leading the Poddlers' this morning. He announced he was going to Marton Cum Grafton, which seemed flat, and 13 people set off along an excellent, rarely used route to inspect Beryl Burton's new surface. El B led us in a loop round Lingerfield, Farnham, over the A1 to Marton cum Grafton and onwards down and up to the outskirts of Boroughbridge... At this point he sped off having things to do, and no time for namby pamby coffeing, to swim another 60 miles or paint a kitchen, stairs and landing, or walk into Leeds on a shopping trip. Strangely, perhaps due to the sun, and glorious autumn scenery, 10 cyclists decided to extend the riding day after a coffee stop.....are the Poddlers' going soft....no, as one young Poddler put it he needed to get his hands round something round and warm. Within minutes we were cosily scoffing tea cakes and coiffing hot coffees and teas, building up for the next leg of the journey, Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton, Markington, The Drovers' Corner, Ripley and the Greenway. As we left Boroughbridge the sun seemed to dissolve, and it became extremely cold, eggs were purchased for the Appleyards and Liz seemed to be lost. The right angled corner to Copgrove was full of tractor things and a lorry and I decided to take an easy quick option home before it snowed. Liz appeared, not loaded with newly bought eggs but with a puncture. Terry C. who we had abandoned last week with his puncture, thinking he was a Leeds Loiterer, or Boroughbridge Biker, was ready to sort out the problem, as were Bash and Glyn and James, and , in fact, everyone else. Miraculously, due to cunning skill, the Shwalby Marathon tyre was removed, restuffed, replaced, reflatd in under ten minutes and 7 continued to complete the chosen addition route, and 3 took a splendid, nearly new route back to Ripley and the Greenway in the gathering gloom. An unexpectedly, excellent ride on a pretty uninspiring day. Thank you El Butler, brilliant as ever. Between 28 and 33 miles. CG.



On a bright but cold morning 6 of us , all keen to make the most of the winter sunshine met at hornbeam and decided on a destination Pateley. Kevin, Colin, Martin, Paul Gia and myself peddled out of Harrogate via Knox and all was well as we enjoyed the watery winter sunshine and wonderful Yorkshire views. At the toll bridge however things got a little confused with 4 of us heading across towards Summerbridge and Gia and Paul sailing on past towards Dacre. After a brief phone call we decided to carry on in our separate directions on opposite sides of the valley. Colin, Martin Kevin and I enjoyed very reasonably priced refreshments at Teacups café before returning via Brimham rocks to warm us up for the swooping descent to Ripley and the greenway. A fabulous winter riding day and we arrived back home seconds before the cold winter rain started to fall.



### **EG's Ride Report**

The day started with high wind and driving rain (well it did on Harlow Hill), but by 9-00am we had clear blue skies and sun. This brought out the "lads" ??? and we had sixteen riders at Low Bridge, including Normans brother Dougie (Doogie), down from Scotland for a sub tropical holiday in Yorkshire. Destination was Ripon, but first things first, in to Angela`s cafe for Toasted Teacakes and caffeine except for Dan who had his usual cooked breakfast. Angela`s was full of uniforms, mostly the EG`s displaying their physiques in Lycra, and the rest North Yorkshires finest, complete with jackets, lots of pockets and hand cuffs. Then still with blue skies it was on to Grafton, Lower Dunsforth, Boroughbridge, Marton-le-Moor, Sharow and Spa Gardens Cafe where we were now down to fourteen. Here Dan had his second cooked breakfast of the day and Doogie had three gooey cakes!, well it makes a change from Haggis sarneys and salty porrage. The route continued via Studley Park but we only had seven takers for this. The Magnificent Seven consisted of Dan, Dave P, Dave Wat, Dave Wil, Marvin, Peter J and Theo again set off in sunshine. On the climb out of watergate, Marvin`s high torque, caused a wheel spin and a fall, fortunately, Marvin, Bike and Phone were not damaged. Then the swoop down to Ripley, and on to Harrogate via the Greenway (Great , how did we manage before) no hills and no traffic. Back in Harrogate for 3-00pm, grey skies but no rain, though a smattering of hail (2mins) with a max of around 47 miles (are`nt we lucky). Dave P



