

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Fourteen Poddlers at Low Bridge but Caroline and Jane decided to do a shorter slower route to Ripley. Past Farnham, Dave won the no pedalling trial before we continued into Ripon via Bishop Monkton and then up the Deer Park, passing a number of deer. Dave rushed on ahead, then posed for a photograph before we had a short break at the Fountains Visitor centre. Dennis and Alan went on to tackle How Hill while the remainder headed along the Monks Wall towards Sawley and along the Sawley Moor road to the B6265, took our third left turn at Crossgates and our fourth to head towards Warsill. Unfortunately there were no views of Brimham due to the mist. We then proceeded at a very fast pace (but not so fast we couldn't talk!) down to Ripley. Dave G and Keith left us here and thank you very much Keith for being a brilliant back marker. Six of us went to Ripley church for coffee and cake but then Steve left to go to B&Q, leaving five of us to head back along the Greenway. At the viaduct we found Malcolm waiting to escort us home. About 37 miles, 1800 ft and average speed 9.3mph - we did find a few hills! Thank you all for the great company.
Liz P



Wednesday Ride

Eleven Wednesday wheelers, including Vanessa on her first Wheel Easy ride, set off from Hornbeam with the destination of Coxwold in mind. The route was "fluid" and the ride leaders were a relay team. It was a flat terrain and there was little wind so we enjoyed a brisk pace. Having lost Alan who turned back at Boroughbridge preferring a shorter ride, the rest of us carried on to our lunch stop in Easingwold. Here we were joined at least for a photo by the EGs but having taken all the outside seating on what may be our last chance this year, they were relegated to the inside tables. A lovely lunch was had and there was much hilarity concerning the fashion Faux pas of the Columbian womens' cycle team kit, consensus being that Wheel Easy has the better design team. Then it was on towards Coxwold where we had the most amazing view of the white horse at Kilburn on route. It seems that I may have been singular in my excitement as Tim could see it from his house in Kirkby Overblow, it's visible from Pannal and Sarah can see it from her landing window. On our return to Harrogate we squeezed in a bonus afternoon tea stop by the river in

Knaresborough before marvelling at the new sculpture on the Beryl Burton cycleway. A marvellous 62 miles at just over 13 mph. Angela P



EGs'Ride

It started off as a grey day, and remained so, but it also remained dry, so that was a bonus. We had eleven riders at Low Bridge, can we go somewhere without hills said Dave Wilson, who after his op did not want to put too much strain on his nether regions. This also suited Dave P who was back from a three week absence; the proposal "what about Easingwold?" was carried.

We were soon joined by Wheel Easy Wednesdayers, who were going to Coxwold and Easingwold; would our paths cross during the day?

Since the demise of Angela`s Cafe there was no other choice but Morrison's Cafe for the first caffeine fix of the day. After which Chris left us for a date with a bowl or was it boule? John R returned via Roelcliffe, and Colin via Ripon.

The remaining eight headed for Easingwold and the town Green and the Curious Table Cafe to find the WEWs dining alfresco (see photo). The EGs due to their delicate constitutions ate inside. The homemade soup was delicious and came with bread of doorstep-proportions, the method of consumption of which was demonstrated by Dave Watson (see photo).

Then it was a nice steady return via Aldwark Bridge, the usual banana break taken at Branton Green. Just near Farnham we again met up with the WEWs who were going to take afternoon tea in Knaresborough, so it was 2-2 in the cafe stakes to both groups.

At around 50 flattish miles it was a nice easy ride for the fit and a slightly harder ride for the less fit. Dave P



Long Ride

Today's long ride assembled with three Richards, one Lesley and one Terry. A newcomer was briefly tempted by the destination, Masham, but resisted our blandishments in favour of the Medium ride. Hoping that a spot of climbing might be the answer to the all-pervading mist we set out through Ripley, Clint and Shaw Mills, then on to Grantley and Kirkby Malzeard. But the mist was unrelenting and, nearing Masham it was obvious that there would be no "burn-off" today. After a final and unsuccessful search for the elusive Roselea Café in Kirkby and a look at

the “Watts Tower” of gathered-in yellow bikes in Masham’s Market Place, we settled into Johnny Baghdad’s for lunch, glad of the warmth and an excellent cuppa.

Over lunch Lofthouse was debated and then confirmed as the next objective, despite the mist. However, Leighton Reservoir was visible – at least, the small amount of water in it was. Have we had such a dry summer? On through the thickening mist to the cattle grids, it dawned on several of us that the climbs seemed less daunting, probably because the views of the road ahead were limited to 50m or so. Simply count the fence posts and keep on turning – a good maxim for any climb!

Once over Lofthouse Moor we left the mist and headed for Teacups in Pateley. Yorke’s Folly was dismissed as a route option, being supplanted by Richard P’s suggestion of a short section off-road leading to Darley. Talk and a picture of broad stepping stones added a degree of credibility to a crossing of the Nidd. On arrival, worried looks deepened when there were no visible stones but a swiftly-flowing Nidd. When Richard P gestured to the bridge (photo confirms) it was clear that the stepping stones had been a well-delivered “wind-up” by him.

After a degree of pushing and lugging along the largely unrideable bridle path (on road bikes, anyway) we reached tarmac in Darley and moved swiftly on via Birstwith and Clint, to reach Ripley Church at 4.30, too late for tea today. One more week left! Back to our various destinations along the Greenway, today’s adventure concluded after 64 miles and 4450ft of climbing together with some walking, lifting, carrying and muttering. Thanks to all for a varied day in the mist. Terry S

