

Sunday, January 25, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 456

Short Ride

There wasn't one! I had gone equipped and Marion and Sue O had thought they might opt for the short length but on hearing Denis' proposed Med Ride, we unanimously opted for that one even though he had use the word "hilly"!

Thus – Medium Ride

Ten of us hurtled behind Denis, who was still suffering from the nasty malaise that caught many of us around Christmas and New Year. Having taken the cycle path to the Showground, we crossed from Sainsburys and headed off to Low Bridge, Abbey Road and thence to Farnham, Bishop Monkton, the big hill at Markington and on to the downhill stretch to Ripley and the Greenway. We almost lost Andrew in Knaresborough but he re appeared on Boroughbridge Road thankfully. A very pleasant horsey lady and her dog, Piper, passed us as we drew breath above Farnham – Fiona appeared tempted to run along with Piper but opted to stay with her bike – again, thankfully. Marion and Fiona coffee-d at Ripley and the rest of us headed home to the anticipated joy of Yorkshire Puds for Denis at least.

A lovely 25 mile ride.

Sue D

Just noticed that rides were aborted at Hornbeam on 26th January last year due to torrential rain on arrival at Hornbeam!



Medium Ride (Paul R)

Not sure how many riders in the group, I think we started with about 14 including 3 new riders, so welcome to them. We were initially stopped on hookstone road by someone waving a wheel at us. Sally needed help putting it back on the bike, which John helped her with. She intended to wait for Dennis's group but he had cunningly taken the back way to low bridge so Sally had to try and chase us down by the official route via Bishop Monkton to Boroughbridge eventually catching up for coffee. Being a large group we split for Coffee, the riff raff going into Gilchrists and the elite into the upmarket Tasty's! I adjusted the route back taking some roads I'd never been on before through Marton cum grafton, so apologies for the unnecessary hill. We split at Arkendale and the remaining 9 returned by Goldsborough where we split again as Sally had a puncture, specially for Keith, so thanks to him , Helen and Justin for staying to help while we returned home. 37 miles. Paul R

Med+ Ride 1

Yet another near record turnout for this ride resulted in a third "leader" offering to lead; thanks Jill, offer gratefully accepted. The group sorted itself into three sections and off we all went. By

the time we had reached the Ripley end of the Greenway it was clear that I was in a party of three, including myself.

Some weeks you're popular; some weeks you're not!

We followed the prescribed route and soon were drinking our favourite beverage in Fountains' excellent facilities. It was good to meet up with some of the others, but we were puzzled as to the whereabouts of the larger group; absence explained below.

We plugged on, on a slight deviation reaching Brimham via Sawley, and having taken the "proof" photo, the rest is history.

Thanks Alan and Terry for a pleasant day out.

Dave S.



Med+ Ride 2

I swear that I counted seven when we left Hornbeam but I was later told that there were nine. Anyway, we followed the official route as far as Fountains Abbey. Most felt that this was too early for coffee and that the rest of the route did not have any coffee facilities. We therefore voted to go to Ripon and at this point two of our group decided to stick with the official route. For the rest of us we found that democracy was contagious and applied to process for the rest of the ride.

We headed down to Spa Gardens only to realise that this esteemed establishment is closed in January. Next stop, Booths Cafe (tres posh - see photo). There seemed to be some reluctance in the air with regard to pressing on, everyone declaring that they hadn't cycled much and that perhaps they had consumed one or two too many mince pies over the festive season.

Eventually, after another round of voting, we settled on Boroughbridge as the next destination. At Boroughbridge another vote took place and we settled for Whixley. Quite soon we found ourselves at Whixley Cricket Club which seemed as good a place as any for a further vote and so it was that we found ourselves heading down a quiet road to the DIY level crossing on the Knaresborough to York line. We eventually arrived back in Harrogate via Little Ribston, Spofforth and the show grounds. A wonderful, magical mystery tour of just under 50 miles!

Could this be the format of future Wheel Easy rides: choose an initial destination then the group decides on the next stop and so on? Just a thought... Ian N.



Med+ Ride 3

A challenging ride for us all who are distinctly lacking in miles for January. Good ride, sadly losing Kevin with a slow puncture at Claro Road and Peter later on with a broken spoke! We had a coffee stop at Fountains then slightly altered the route back via Brimham Rocks, thinking we might avoid the steepest of hills but ended up doing it anyway! All good winter training. 34 miles. Gia



Long Ride

There's always one, isn't there? Some brave/intrepid/unaware/foolhardy/brain-dead person who wants to ride his or her (usually his...) bike Fortunately this guy didn't turn up today so his stunt double, Terry Smith, led the ride instead assisted by last week's missing leader Eric the Shark. The shark provided all 7 participants with a copy of the ride details from last week, led off from Hornbeam, shot across Leeds Road and then turned right onto Green Lane. Much confusion; TS, or was it PS, pointed out that the ride was heading to Almscliffe crag and that we

should be turning left towards Burn Bridge. The Shark consulted his notes, agreed, and all riders performed a quick u-turn. After that it was all plain sailing. The weather was OK'ish, cafes (Bolton Abbey tearooms and Stump Cross Caverns) good (formal apology from the ride leader for pinching Dave W's beans) and the company superb. Hats off to 2 new(ish) members Phil and Andy from Boro'bridge who incorporated our 64 mile route into their 100 mile ride! Phil S.

Off Road Ride

Four of us met in a decidedly cold and windy Leyburn market place. I took an un-tried track south from Leyburn to join the minor road to Wensley.....never to be repeated, the top was a quagmire, the bottom a boulder field. From Wensley, we climbed steeply up to Middleham Gallops, where we turned West into a wind strong enough to blow us to a standstill. Then I'm afraid I turned off the road too early, and didn't realise it was the wrong track until we were floundering around in a very boggy field. So we retraced back to the road, and took the right track a few hundred yards later.....unfortunately, into the gale again.

15 years ago this was a good track, now its a mess....judging by the deep ruts, blocked drainage channels, pervading smell of slurry, and police presence I imagine there has been a disagreement between landowners and motorised off-roaders.

Things improved as we dropped down towards West Burton, with a bit of sunshine showing us the flat-topped hill called Addleborough with some snow remaining, and I couldn't resist a picture of Peter underneath the (l)arches.

We sat by the waterfall in West Burton for a sandwich, and somebody kindly took a team photo. It was time to head back to Leyburn, despite covering very little ground, we went by road via Aysgarth Falls and a most excellent refreshment stop in the car park café to Carperby, and another untried track (which was good) to join the Castle Bolton track, arriving at the castle in sunshine and rainbows. Back to Leyburn via the Redmire bypass and a short diversion to Preston-under-scar....because its nice, and we were early! Colin T.





