

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

## wednesday Rides

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### **Poddlers Ride**

Fourteen Poddlers, mostly regulars, plus Joe's son and his partner joined the group for a lovely scenic ride to Brimham Rocks. As I am known for 'hills' a few murmurings about we are bound to be going up steep hills, when they expected Paul to be leading the ride, but he had other commitments and saw that I was today's leader. The sun was out but it was chilly in places as we crossed the Stray and down Claro Road to the Greenway. I counted them at Bilton Cross and there were still sixteen with me. Mike became the ride photographer and took the first photo shot at the viaduct, with murmurings of 'its best to have an early photo looking reasonable fit and hearty, before we go up hills and get sweaty and perspiring' then we cycled along the flat, meandering down the Greenway to Ripley. Gathering the sixteen together for crossing the dangerous road to take the right turn up the first hill. The sun shone brightly as we rode along the tops towards Brimham, glorious views spread out before us as we went up and down hill. Still the sixteen rode on enjoying the sunshine, the spring lambs were bleating in the fields all was well in the world. After a quick discussion about the café stop, Brimham Rocks café was discounted for Sophie's. As we passed the packed NT car park this was the right decision. From Brimham we turned down towards Birstwith via the toll road, swooping down the hill to go up the other side, Sophies café was the incentive as we pulled up and gathered at the top of the very steep hill. Mike parked himself on the bench among the golden daffodils looking very relaxed and laidback as he took another photo. Liz, Maris and Jen joined Mike on the bench and soon all four looked relaxed and not wanting to move. Glyn was busy mending Alison's bike and we all lingered in the warm sunshine. Talk of those who needed to get home and those who wanted to go to Sophie's soon got us on the move again. Twelve, a good number went to Sophie's and the rest headed home, after coffee and cakes up Lund Lane onto Knox and home again. Mike informed us that we had done 2162 feet of accumulated ascent, oh no my reputation for hills is becoming renowned!! I think the sunshine and wonderful scenic views save me from too much dissension, but if you want spectacular views we need to climb a few hills!! 28 miles approx. Liz





### **Wednesday Ride**

Ten Wednesday wheelchairs set off today on an early April morning that was masquerading as a mid-July morning. The sun beamed down on us and there was barely a breeze as we headed out via Noth Rigton to Almscliffe Cragg and then dropped down into Pool to climb back up Creskeld Lane into Bramhope. Elevensies were provided at chez Prescott, much needed fuel for the reverse ascent of the Cow and Calf via the top of the Chevin and Burley in Wharfedale. The views were magnificent in all directions and spring flowers and lambs were everywhere. A steep drop down to Ilkley and we headed for the iron bridge to take us to Cockpit Farm Café for lunch. Sitting out in the glorious sunshine it was impossible to believe that this is still only early April and it was suggested that it would not be impossible for us to still have snow before the summer arrives! Our return route took us back past Lindly wood reservoir (apparently-as I didn't see it) and along Brackenthwaite Lane to Burn Bridge from where, one by one, everyone peeled off eventually leaving just Sarah and myself entering Hornbeam. A wonderful ride giving views along Wharfedale in the other direction as a change and 42 miles covered and an impressive 3,566 feet climbed. Angela



## **Long Ride**

### **Daffodil Epic**

There were some worried frowns in the oak-panelled tearoom at Kiplin Hall, near Catterick. It was almost 3 o'clock and our computers told us that we'd clocked up 48 miles already. Was this the halfway mark?! Were we looking at 90 plus miles today?

The original plan was to do the Daffodil Ride and add a bit on. A visit to Kiplin Hall seemed like an excellent idea for a cafe stop, so that became the add-on. Nine set off, calling at Boroughbridge for the customary loo stop. At this point three headed back towards HG, not wishing to jeopardise recovery from ops and injuries.

Thirsk at 11.30 was a busy bustling place and a lively spot for an early lunch. Cafe Arabbica obliged and played host to some interesting conversation, not least Martin's contribution on the best places to go shopping in a Ferrari. Garden centres, evidently, are his favourite - yes, he does own a Ferrari!

Unfortunately, the leg from Thirsk to Kiplin featured Terry S losing the scent, having failed to notice the group's turn off the market square. Calls and texts kept us in touch but it didn't prevent us from taking rather different routes to Kiplin. Terry dashed up the main roads hoping to head off the pack before the outskirts of Northallerton, only to arrive at the agreed destination in advance of them. All came right 20 minutes later when the bunch rolled in having enjoyed quiet lanes and a couple of Pugh loops.

Kiplin's fruit scones were excellent, as was the Simnel cake. Richard L tried the gluten-free scones. Imagine his surprise when the baker emerged from the kitchen to ask for customer feedback. "More bicarb" was the main thrust of opinion, but to do justice to the enquiry we asked if we could sample another. Two arrived on the house and duly floored us! At that point the worried frowns set in and, after a photo call, we set off for home.

It's not easy to avoid main roads in the vicinity of the A1M upgrade, as the network of lanes is not dense in this area. Nevertheless we were soon back on the Daffodil Ride route to Ripon, taking in Wath's contribution (see photo). Ripon provided the comfort break, after which it was the usual route back to Knaresborough and our farewells to Lesley and Richard. Tired legs began to show on the A59 up to the golf course, one of the few climbs of a day which ended after 83-85 miles at around 6 o'clock. At c 35 miles the return leg had been shorter than feared, but still justified the ride's "epic" status. Terry Smith



## **EG's Ride**

### **Group One Ride Report**

Due to the number of riders turning out for today's ride it was decided to split the riders up into four groups. This was not only to avoid annoying motorists but to avoid "cafe shock". PCJ led the first group of six riders. Probably due to the glorious weather conditions and the feeling that spring had arrived we set blistering pace to Benningborough Hall. Our next port of call was to be Rowntree Park cafe. At Rowntree Park cafe we hit on a problem in that the demand for food exceeded the supply of food. This problem resulted in a wait of over 35 minutes before any cooked food arrived, but by now an amalgamation of the other groups led by Eric W had turned up.

Some of Eric's group were not prepared to wait and decided to set off to Bolton Percy and as such we joined them. There was some confusion as to which route to take but the GPS won the day, and provided a relatively traffic free route to Bolton Percy. At Bolton Percy Eric's group stopped for refreshments but my group decided that a third stop was not called and headed home. Just as we were leaving Bolton Percy we were worrying confronted by lots of Road Closed signs and Bolton Percy bridge looked like a No-Go Zone, but some of the workmen on the site directed us to the cyclist/pedestrian path that took us over the railway track. From there it was plain sailing all the way back to Harrogate via Tadcaster, Wighill, Thorpe Arch Trading Estate, Wetherby and Knaresborough. A young rider by the name of James had accompanied us on the ride and when it came to Knaresborough hill he showed us all how it should be done, by leaving us all standing. Peter J





