

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 469

Short Ride

Amanda was out on her first Wheel-easy ride and as she has only just learned to ride a bike the route was adjusted slightly to take out the hilliest bit.

Amanda came all the way via the Greenway to Ripley and Hampsthwaite Killinghall and back via the Greenway to Harrogate. A ride of about 18 miles. Well done Amanda. Hope to see you again soon. Jean



Medium Ride

Twenty riders opted for the flat 37 mile medium route. Jennifer kindly offered to lead a group who wanted to be home before 1pm. Ian and myself each led a group who wished to go at a slower pace.

Once we past the Flower Show visitors around the showground the roads were fairly quiet. It was a lovely morning perfect for cycling. The route took us to Spofforth, Little Ribston, Walshford and then the gated road from the A168 to Whixley. This was a first for me and I will certainly be doing it again. The route continued to Thorpe Underwood, Little Ouseburn, Great Ouseburn, Upper Dunsforth, Little Dunsforth and Aldborough. Three of the group decided to continue home and the rest stopped for coffee in Boroughbridge where we met a group riding the Roses route. After excellent refreshments we continued home via Minskip, Staveley, Farnham and Knaresborough, Thanks to the group for help making it an excellent ride. Sorry about the photo! Paul



It was pretty much a perfect Sunday morning as the 'slightly slower than the fast group' left Hornbeam bound for Boroughbridge via Whixley and the level crossing. Sunshine and no wind, wheels whirring along the back lanes, accompanied by friendly chatter. What's not to like? We picked up three extra riders at Little Ribston and the only problem we experienced was finding a place for a coffee stop in Boroughbridge.
Ian N





Medium+ Ride

We cycled the Way of the Roses last week so with freshly tired legs, in the spirit of "Hair of the Dog", I was pleased to be leading the Dallowgill Moor Ride!

This was a perfect day to be heading west with gin clear skies, sunshine, light winds and the temperature on the cool side of warm. With twelve in the group, we set a good pace and were soon cruising past Brimham Rocks with Dallowgill Moor clearly in our sights. John was our Duty Photographer for the day and, in a fine example of non-verbal communication, James appeared to be doing a first class job of back marking. As Leader, I had next to nothing to do because everyone knew the route (better than me), so it was a delightful, relaxed day out in fabulous conditions. We stopped at the Fountains Visitor Centre for their mildly over-priced but excellent sandwiches, cakes and scones and there was a noticeable reluctance to get back in the saddle after such a pleasant break.

The weather didn't change and our return route was uneventful all the way home. We did catch an occasional glimpse of Liz's group, rather in the style of a proper Western – every time we looked back, we could see them on the distant horizon, gaining on us! We did in fact finish simultaneously at the end of the Greenway, having been delayed by bumping into Malcom out on his Brompton, in shorts, heading out for a late lunch at Sophie's – at 2.40 p.m.!

Job done – all a Leader really has to do at the end of a ride is download the pictures, write the report, have a bath and pour out a glass of wine. Strictly in that order, otherwise I am in grave danger of downloading the bath, writing the pictures and pouring out the ride report.

Thanks to all for a tremendous day out, full of the usual banter and laughter – and absolutely no mention of you-know-what on 7 May. Helen T





Med+ Slower Ride

Six of us followed the main medium plus group at a medium ride pace though we did briefly catch up with them at Knox so were able to gatecrash their photograph. We were ecstatic at having the opportunity to climb Clint Bank and then as we proceeded to Brimham we were able to enjoy the sunshine and wonderful views. At least climbing kept us warm, going downhill we were rather cold at times. Neil had the thinnest tyres and as he was game to do the bridle path towards Dallowgill we all deviated from the posted route and avoided an extra hill. The views just got better and then we enjoyed a fast downhill to Grantley. Passing Aldfield we were ready for refreshments at Fountains Abbey though with the staff instructions to add a whole bag of coffee meant our cafetieres were a third full of coffee grounds and that was when I protested at half a bag! We were able to chat with Helen's group before they sped off. Passing through the deer park and Ripon, Peter and Neil left us at Bishop Monkton and Dave left us at Ripley leaving Sally, Justin and I to enjoy the bluebells on the Greenway. At the railway bridge we caught up with Helen's group who had been "delayed by Malcolm", obviously he wasn't as good at delaying us! 44 miles. Thanks for great company. Liz P



Long Ride Lite

Initially this ride started out as five riders on the Medium Plus but slight faster pace. Before leaving Harrogate we were overtaken by another group of faster Medium Plus riders. By the time we arrived at Brimham Rocks it was decided to split into two groups with the majority setting off at a faster pace. The remaining three riders, myself, Dave Wilson (completed a 200k Audax ride yesterday) and Rob (just returned from a 4 day walk on the coast to coast) decided to continue on at our own pace. As we were no longer constrained by the need to follow the prescribed Medium Plus route when we reached Dallowgill we decided to go to Ripon via Laverton and Kirkby Malzeard. Coincidentally at Spa Gardens we met up the other Medium Plus riders. At Spa gardens we decided to go Boroughbridge, taking the scenic route via Littlethorpe. Given the brilliant weather conditions we decided to elongate the ride and go to Wetherby via Great Ouseburn, Cattall and Hunsingore. After a stop for refreshments we returned to Harrogate via Sicklinghall, Kirkby Overblow and Burn Bridge. What was advertised as 45 miles turned out to be a wonderful 70 miles. Peter J



Long Ride

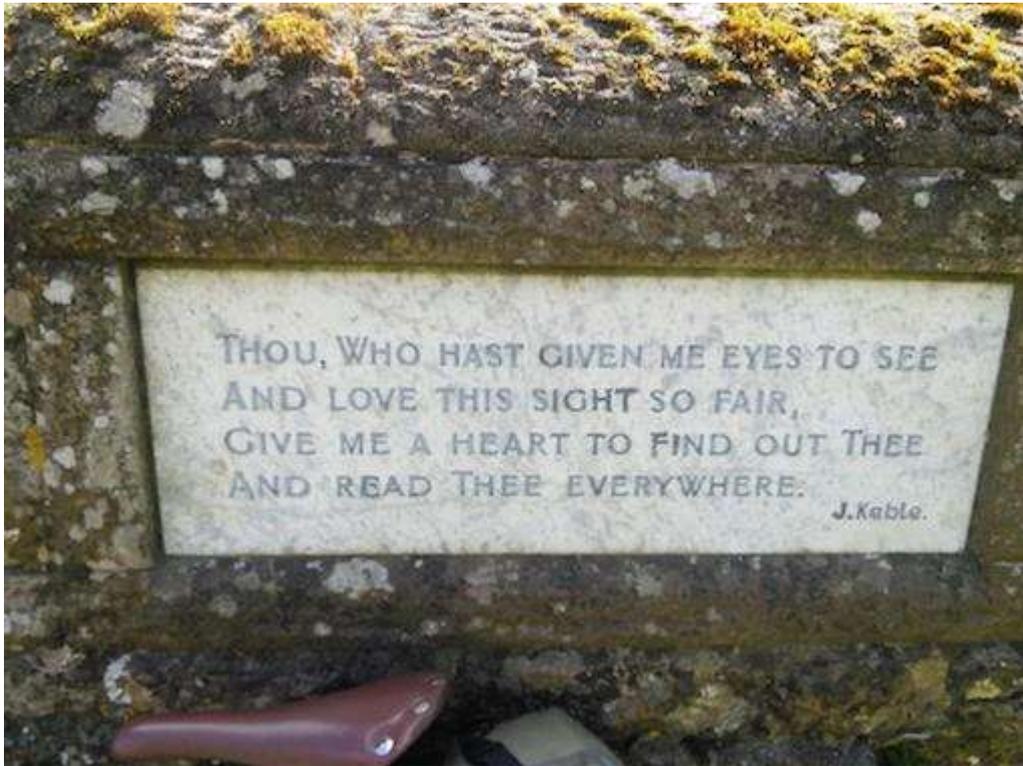
Unexpectedly fine weather attracted 9 riders to 100mile ride to Hutton-le-Hole. A concerted campaign by several riders forced an early cafe stop at the cafe in Ampleforth which proved to be quick, efficient and good value.

The climb up to Gilmoor was rewarded by fantastic views from the church (see photo) and we arrived at the cafe in H-le-H for 12.30. Consternation at the lack of beans on toast on the menu was the cause of more campaigning directed at the cafe owner. Perhaps the prospect of 9 customers leaving an empty cafe resulted in an order for 9 b-on-t being happily accepted.

Following lunch the route was changed slightly to include the villages of Lastingham, Appleton-le-Moors and Great Edstone which improved the ride by missing out a busy road section.

The lumpy bumpy bits in the Howardian hills caused the ride to split into 2 groups at Terrington. The rouleurs arrived back at about 5.40 whilst those of us with tired legs made it home about 40 minutes later. 102 fantastic miles. Phil





Off Road Ride

Five of us met at Scar House reservoir car park, in gloriously bright and clear weather.....not hot, but I don't remember it ever being hot up there.....

Over the dam, and up the bridlepath over Gt. Whernside's shoulder, the picture is looking back from about the 600m contour over Angram and Scar House reservoirs....we could see the factories on Teesside and Roseberry topping. Dropping down to the top of Park Rash, Peter said its funny, when you come up Park Rash, it feels like the top of the world.....but it isn't!

Then came the bit we brought the bikes for....the run all the way down Coverdale. The thought of a pint was too good to resist, and we sat in the garden of the pub in Horsehouse, in the sunshine.

Peter and Paul left us at Horsehouse to go the direct way back to Scar House on the track over Dead Man's Hill, to attend a family function and attend to the bees, respectively. Their cars weren't there when we got back to Scar House, so we assume all went well.....

Rob, Richard, and me carried on down the tarred road to West Scafton and Caldberg, where we took the track (now labelled the "Red Way") over to Colsterdale.....we added Bilsdale TV mast to the list of things we could see from that track.

A short stretch of tarmac until it finishes at the last house in Colsterdale, then a good shooting track for a while, then a less-good track past South Haw to join the track that contours round and finally drops you down at the Scar House dam. A good day, tired legs thrown in for nothing. Colin

