

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Wheel Easy Ride Report 504

After the Christmas celebrations just less than 30 members turned up all keen to get back on their bikes and to enjoy a ride. As we only had ride leaders for the medium ride Joe and Geraldine led a group to Boroughbridge, Martin offered to lead a ride to Ripon and the medium plus riders organised themselves.

Medium Ride to Ripon and Brimham

Paul, Colin and Martin decided on a route to avoid the closed flooded roads around Boroughbridge and Ripon. You could say it was the "seen it all before" ride as we had spent a morning a couple of weeks back dodging around the Dunsforth villages trying to find a way through the floods and now it was all back again, only deeper. So bored with the prospect of that again we headed for Ripon via Knaresborough, Farnham and Bishop Monkton, seeing the Sunday Low Bridge riders on the way, and at Ripon stopped for the mandatory Cafe Nero break. With the sun shining in a manner almost beyond memory we decided on a climb to get the best of the views going via Studley Park, Fountains, and Sawley where we met Liz and Richard heading the other way. Eventually we climbed up to Brimham to discover views with breath-taking clarity in the sunshine. Then it was down to Ripley via Wilsil meeting the Low Bridge Group again and we returned along the Greenway. Everyone and their new dog and new bike were out getting some sunshine, great to see. What an asset to Harrogate the Greenway has become. 40 brilliant miles. Martin W



Medium Ride to Boroughbridge

After 3 days of nearly continuous rain, it turned out to be a beautiful morning at Hornbeam: blue sky, sunshine, almost no wind. 12 people opted for the medium ride (making 14 with Geraldine and me). Discussion took place about possible areas of flooding and road/bridge closures. The route on the website was to Boroughbridge, and, rather surprisingly, no-one had heard of any flooding there, although we had heard that the route past Ripon Racecourse was closed. The route was via Knaresborough and along the riverside/Abbey road, although there *had* been reports of flooding there. Dave Preston kindly volunteered to recce that route for us, and he hared off, having promised to report to us when we got to Low Bridge. All was clear, said Dave, even though you could see how high the river level had been at its maximum; at least it was obviously on its way down. Farnham, right up the hill and a re-group to discuss progress. James and others said the website route along the bridlepath from Copgrove would be horrible, so, instead we opted to go to Arkendale, under the A1 towards the Dunsforths. The extent of the flooding became clear when we reached the junction with the 'main' Roman Road (B6265), and

so it was decided to take that for the 3 miles into Boroughbridge. Fortunately it was very quiet. A brief hiccup when James and I decided to turn left and go via Marton, but Dave Preston had local knowledge and strongly suggested continuing on the main road. On arriving in Boroughbridge, we went to look at the bridge before having coffee. The river was as high as I have ever seen it, and the bridge was closed to traffic as the road was flooded at the other side. Gordon and Alison left us at this point, and Tall John and Peter had already left the group. Gilchris couldn't really accommodate all of us, so we went to Morrisons. Dave P had agreed to check out Dave Siswick's cottage in Roecliffe, which he duly did, only to report that Roecliffe was cut off and the inhabitants were being evacuated... Coffee and refreshments finished, the only sensible way out of Boroughbridge was through Minskip to Staveley, Occaney, Farnham and Scriven. James cunningly took us round Knaresborough and right past his house. Up the hill towards Starbeck, at which point Geraldine and I headed back along Boggs Lane, and the rest carried straight on. About 32 miles. Joe







