

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

Was it the weather, or was it spring in the air? Who knows why there were 5 people wanting to go slow. But 5 there were and 5 set off up Hookstone Road to Leadhall Lane and Pannal. We'd forgotten how lovely the swoop down Hags Lane/Road into Spofforth is and despite not being able to find a bird skull spotted last week, on the grass verge, on the way to Little Ribston, we sped towards Knaresborough full of the joys of Spring. So over excited by the delights of the countryside and cycles, we took a detour down the wrong bike path, and failed to meet up quickly with Diane who had thought better of it and decided to meet us at the Scriven turn off. We kept Jen out of the Guy Fawkes Pub, with its she fancies sampling, as we passed through Scotton, and had a breather at the scene of what Jill told us was a big accident this time last week. Large amounts of glass covered the road. Onwards and along to Ripley, where we took coffee and very large cheese scones and a slice of lemon drizzle, in Sir Thomas' converted bedroom, we put the world to rights....if only we could, and Monica told us all about a project she was involved with in a very forward thinking school in Harehills.....All very interesting. By the time we had finished changing the world, the temperature seemed to have dropped and Di needed a wardrobe overhaul along the Greenway, before tackling the heights of Rossett, and Jen found Glyn, who pretended not to no us, and our carer Jill headed homeward leaving us to the Asda Path unaided. Thank you for going slow the front, back and side markers....good fun with 28 miles in the real world, and 17,149 steps, 2,390 calories used up, about 5,000 eaten, and 72 floors climbed in the other world of Fitbits. CG.



### Wednesday Wanderers Ride

There were a lot of Wanderers this morning so Max and I tried to split the group in 2 on our first leg through Pannal and along Follifoot Ridge, where we collected Gordon, and along Hags Lane to Spofforth. We were now a group of 17 so we split into groups of 4 to get to Little Ribston, where Dennis left us for an early return home. The route was a bit quieter towards Walshford and along the minor road, where we posed for photos by the railway crossing and amazingly the A59 was easy to cross. Through Whixley and then Gordon, John and Charlie headed straight back while the others headed down the muddy lane to Tancred Farm cafe. This was a first for most of us. The staff welcomed us despite the numbers and we were soon tucking in to bacon butties or teacakes accompanied by a lot of chat. Fortunately we were warned by Mike not to leave our bikes where the goats could eat them! The route back was Thorp Underwood, Ouseburn, Arkendale, Farnham and Knaresborough and the only

incident was when one rider mistook a notice board for a coffee cup, how I have not the faintest idea but I was told to include this! We did about 34 miles and only 1150 feet of climbing. Thanks to Max and Keith for helping at the back and to all the riders for putting up with a stressed leader! Liz F we missed you - get well soon. Liz P



### **Medium Plus Ride**

For once the Medium Plus riders were organised with a nominated ride leader and a route- which was just as well as we were confronted with a surprise OFBIKE Inspection with the Chair(John) and Vice Chair (James) joining us for today's ride.

Having shown them the pre- ride preparation (the printed out route) nine of us set off for our destination of Otley in good spirits, but under grey skies.

We made good progress via Burnbridge and Kirby Overblow and after a short stretch on the main road set about climbing Weardly Bank.

From there we headed to Bramhope and after trying Angelas Cafe and finding it closed for holidays(again) we headed for Otley.

A pleasant ride along the Chevin Ridge (unfortunately with only limited views) we then made a fast descent into Otley where disaster struck when our cafe stop told us his coffee machine had broken and there was only tea.

We quickly revived Paul (who thought he would have to be caffeine free till he got home ) we showed our flexibility and thinking on our feet skills to our two Leaders by opting for a coffee stop at the Yorkshire Pantry at Pool. The pace was fast ( well for us ) along the main road as we all began to need some caffeine and calories and we got to the cafe just as a table for 8 was cleared- great planning!

Full of sustenance our ride leader( me) showed his inclusive side and canvassed the group on their preferred route home (this went down well with the Inspection team I thought) and so it was agreed to ride back on an alternative route via Almscliffe Crag and then back into Pannal where we dispersed at the Black Swan for our various routes home.

Initial inspection feedback was Good but we await any other feedback after they have moderated their comments- as far as the group was concerned the ride was awarded an Outstanding with everyone making contributions to the ride and participating with great interpersonal skills (chat) and being enjoyable company. Seriously, great to have John riding with us today and thanks to everyone who came along and special thanks to Sarah who helped guide us through the Bramhope part of the route. 35 Miles on a cold and grey day- but still an enjoyable ride

Kevin



### **EGs Ride**

The EGs were in a state of confusion as there were no Dave's to lead the ride. After a brief meeting of the Committee it was decided to go to Easingwold via Boroughbridge. At Boroughbridge the group split into two, with one group going for refreshments at Morrison's and the other group continuing on to Easingwold. To our surprise the Easingwold group was joined en route by Eric and Roy, apparently Roy had not heard the details of the route and had set off for Easingwold via a different route. The Curious Table accommodated all eight of us on one table and a substantial amount of baked beans were consumed. Nick and Roy decided to return to Harrogate whilst the remainder returned to Harrogate via Hushwaite, Carlton Hushwaite, Thornton Bridge and Boroughbridge. Peter J



Dan Dan The Two Scone Man

### **Long Ride**

Somebody blurted out "Masham and then decide" when pressed for our destination at roll-call today. How often we tend to use Masham as the route conference point these days! On a chillier morning than expected, five riders headed for the Greenway and the usual comfort stop at Ripley. The Greenway is a great blessing, but on chilly mornings one never gets truly warm until the climb up Scarah Bank. Everyone agreed that it was too early to even think about coffee at Fountains, so we pressed on through Winksley to Kirkby Malzeard

cemetary. Along this stretch, having given way on the narrow lanes to an assortment of large tractors and an oil tanker, we stumbled across Martin Weeks, out for a solo ride or so he thought! Nevertheless he joined us, pausing at Kirkby cemetary to pay respects to a former colleague. At this point the route began to take on a sinuous form, looping through Laverton to Kirkby M and Ringbeck, before heading back to Grewethorpe along Nutwith Lane. After 8 miles the road sign said 1¾ miles to Kirkby – which told the story in full! But, the views into the Himalayan Gardens were worth the detour. Having started at 8.30 Martin was in need of fuel and headed straight to Masham. We caught him at Johnny Baghdad's after a diversion past Masham Golf Club. After almost 3 hours and having been passed uphill twice by trotting horses, we were all ready for lunch. Beans on wholemeal proved popular, as did the quinoa and lentil salsa. The latter left Richard L and me with a very warm glow! With no takers for the Lofthouse climbs, the ride headed by popular acclaim to Snape for a daffodil survey. The display in the village is clearly work in progress, but the approach road was in full bloom, giving an uplifting yellow gallery. Cameras came out for a traditional spring group photo at Wath, courtesy of Martin, and a shot of Martin regrouping with us at Hutton Conyers before heading direct for home. Deliberations about a tea stop in Ripon were lengthy until "Spa" was blurted out. We arrived in time for scones all round. The home leg was via the Deer Park, Drovers, Ripley and the Greenway, concluding a 62.5 mile ride at around 5.00 pm.-



