

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Alas, President Poddler was busy feeding her grandchildren on boiled eggs with soldiers and was, therefore, unable to lead us to the heights of poddler potential. As I have one route only (well, two if both ways counts), five noble souls agreed to accompany me to Ripley via Follifoot, Little Ribston, Scriven, Scotton and Nidd. It was rumoured that the Graham Gang may well be coffeeing at Ripley Church and it seemed expedient to join them. The weather forecast/s followed by several Poddlers indicated rain but time of arrival, like trains, varied so we set off in sunshine and gathered speed as we negotiated the highways and byways leading to the right hand turn to Brearton. Here Dennis left us to go and join his great-grandchildren who were eagerly awaiting entertainment for the afternoon. By this time, the clouds were gathering and by Nidd, a downpour had descended. Joe and Geraldine had undertaken the coffee investigation and were somewhat thwarted – the Church was not serving their sumptuous cakes and the café looked as if a furniture sale was about to take place – presumably a re-furb? Jen spotted the sign into the Castle – “Teashop Open”. We parked and locked and went in to be told there was no room - familiar line so we repaired to the inn and had a delightful cup of coffee having been made very welcome!

Jen received a text from Glyn, who had been with the fast group but who was, apparently, “With Caroline” – goodness, can Wheel Easy cope with this sort of information? Lo and behold, we were just discussing the significance of this news, when Glyn appeared ALONE and said that all the Grahams were in the Castle tea place but were heading our way. Grandfather Max arrived followed by the clan – Grandmother plus five of whom three were very delightful grandchildren, who made very polite conversation and then went off with rather exhausted looking grandparents and cheery parents to dine in the very pleasant hinterland of the Boar's Head. We five then headed for the Greenway and home. Just to ensure no misapprehension re Poddler speed equating to intellectual ability or not, debate ranged from fixing a permanent date for Easter or not, academies or not, Police Commissioners or not and Scottish Independence ...

We also added a point of interest re the route back to Hornbeam. Jen and Glyn took the ASDA path and I went via Claro Road and the Stray paths. We encountered each other at the Rayleigh Road/ Hornbeam Park traffic lights!!!

A very pleasant morning, thank you all very much. The President intends to be there next week! Sue D

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

A group of thirteen Wanderers left Hornbeam on a bright morning with light winds and a promise of showers. Out to Beckwithshaw and up to Little Almscliffe Crag where we regrouped after the long climb. On to Norwood and down past Swinsty reservoir to Fewston Church where we stopped to discuss the options for the rest of the ride. To my surprise everyone agreed to follow the planned hilly route rather than return via the easier route past Fewston Farm Shop.

On we went across the Fewston reservoir dam and up the first long hill to the Otley road. Down to Blubberhouses and across the A59 onto Hardisty Hill. As we started up the hill a squally shower could be seen approaching from the west. By the time we were halfway up the hill it had hit us with rain, hail and sleet and a gusty crosswind. This gave us an excuse to stop for a few minutes to don waterproofs and have a short rest before continuing up to Meagill Lane. By this time it was brightening up again and we were then able to continue past Menwith Hill and along to Hampsthwaite in relatively fine conditions.

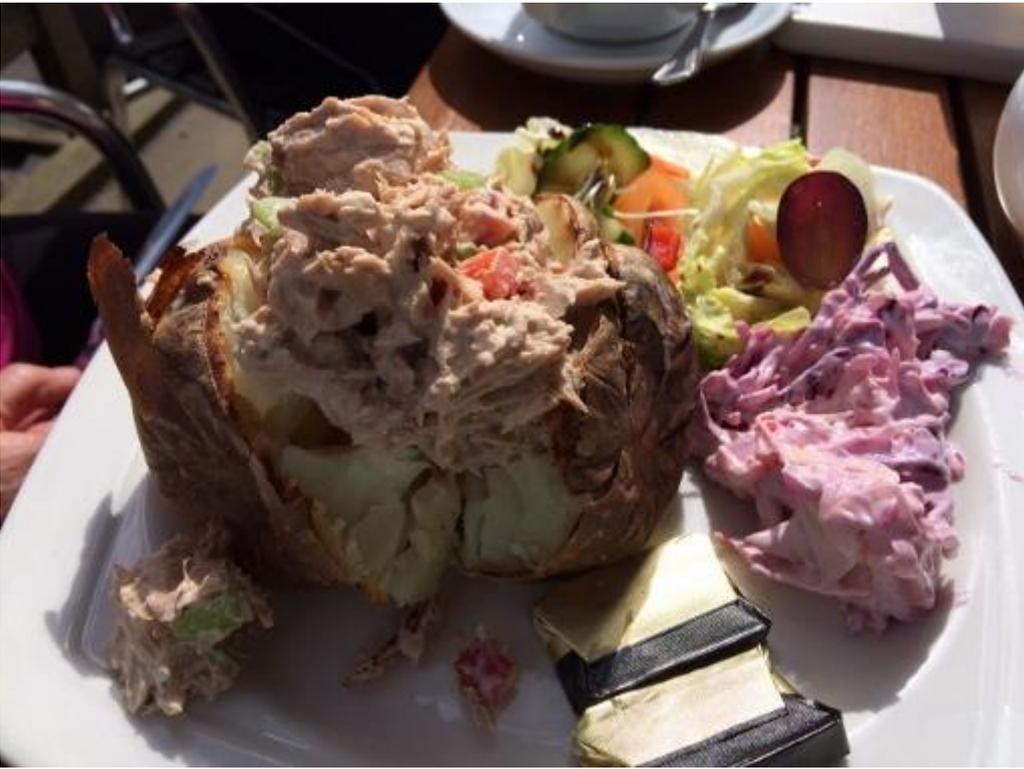
In Hampsthwaite, four of us stopped at Sophie's while everyone else continued back to Harrogate. After coffee, tea and teacakes we returned via Killinghall and the Greenway to Harrogate.

Thanks to everyone for taking the hilly option. 30 miles and 2130 ft. of climbing making for an interesting and invigorating ride. Andrew H

Wednesday Ride

A cold start did not deter 13 riders prepared to undertake a fairly lengthy ride north from Harrogate. It was supposed to be dry but shower clouds gathered as we approached Ripon, so the Leader, urged on by others of course, deemed that Cafe Nero on the Square would be a port of call, and the shower duly started as we sat in the warm enjoying coffee. It soon stopped raining after we left, crossing North Bridge, up the hill and heading for Wath we rode into blue skies on quiet roads all the way to Snape. After pictures of prolific daffodils six riders headed directly back towards Ripon and Harrogate, and the remaining riders took the long hill up and over to Masham and a good cafe stop. Then it was time for some serious climbing up past Swinton Hall and through the delightfully named hamlet of "Wathermarske" before dropping down towards Grewelthorpe. Overlooking the Himalayan Gardens we can give everyone the information that it is too early for the blooms to be out so don't go yet! A rapid descent to Ripon and then Bishop Monkton led to a rebellion from the leader's legs demanding sustenance before going any further. The rest of the group headed for the Greenway followed by yours truly 20 minutes later. 62 miles in cool sunny weather. Martin W.







Wednesday Long Ride

Ride report to follow.

EGs' Ride

It started out a funny sort of day with the weather being sort of perm any 8 from 10.

Still we had a round dozen riders at Low Bridge. The destination was the Lemon Tree Cafe in Taddy, away went a fast trio of Marvin H, Dave Wilson and Peter J, which of course any higher mathematician knows comprised $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ Dave`s.

The remaining nine set off at a steadier pace and in good order, this included Dave S on fixed, which meant he was the only EG to ride all the route.

A pleasant ride in good weather to Cowthorpe and down Rudgate to a packed Lemon Tree, estimated 95% cyclists, including York CTC, but we were all seated in no time.

After calories and caffeine the fast trio headed for York, the nine then retraced their steps to the footbridge to await Norman to compose the team photo. (See non-professional team photo on bridge)

However Norman and Nick had vanished??? and we were now a "magnificent" seven who headed on the "plains" towards Catterton where a dark dismal downpour engulfed us then passed us and continued to York while we turned off for Bilborough and Askham Richard under part blue skies and sun.

Being EG`s a second cafe break was essential and hot drinks etc. were taken at Tockwith Post Office. Then the magnificent seven comprising Bill, Dave P, Dave S, Peter B, Roy, Theo, and Terry W headed back to Cowthorpe and Knaresborough in sunshine for a final stop.

Guess where? See final photo, well we are EG`s. A nice medium ride in not to bad weather, somewhere in the mid to high 40`s. Dave P



EGs +

The fast trio on leaving Tadcaster set off for Ricall via Ulleskelf and Cawood. At Ricall we joined the cycle path and headed for York. As we approached York we could see the storm clouds gathering. It was then a quick dash to Naburn, where we took shelter and avoided getting soaked. Next stop was York where we stopped for refreshments at The Cycle Hut. Apparently there is a world shortage of baked beans judging by the servings we received. Having stayed dry for most of the ride we now decided to take the quickest way back to Harrogate i.e. via Acomb, Long Marston and Cowthorpe. Despite the persistent headwind we made good progress returning to Harrogate windswept but dry. Peter J

