

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Wednesday Ride

Poddlers Ride

How many women does it take to mend a bike puncture. 6 and a few strong fingers. Not only was it warm, wind free and sunny today, necessitating a lot of clothing rearrangements, but it was nearly the 10 year anniversary of Wheel Easy and the day before our revered founder's Happy Birthday. And to celebrate all those joys the Lady Poddlers' proved that anyone can change a tyre with a puncture. All it required was a puncture.....Lynda provided that. A new inner tube.....which Jean provided. A few tyre leavers.....Monica, Jean Caroline, and several others had those. A bit of knowledge regarding inner tube changing.....well we all knew a bit. Some luck....it was a front tyre not a back one, and it was not too cold and occurred in a pleasant spot near the river at Castley. A man with strong fingers....Graham had those. Excellent communications.....obviously all of us could do that as we are women and not amazingly worked together like a well oiled set of Shimano bike gears. A method of cleaning ourselves up.....Sue had wet wipes. Theoretically we could do the whole procedure easily, practically we had not the strength in our fingers to firstly undo the wheel from the things that connect it to the handles and the brake thing at the frontso we told our man with strong fingers what he had to do. Secondly we could not get the lever things up the tyre.....super thumbs could. The stuffing the new inner tube back into the glass and nail checked very hole filled tyre and bunging on the screwy bit to the pumper up bit was easy. Monica had a super pump which pumped up the tyre after "strong thumbs" had been instructed how to ensure the whole rubber parts were attached to the metal wheel rim. We put the wheel back the right way round and amazingly joined back the brakes. Jean knew you had to bounce the front of the bike about a bit to check it was all joined back together in more or less the same way as it left home. Anyway puncture mending it did not take the 4 hours that I had suspected it might, and we completed the Stainburn Forest, Lindley, Castley, Dunkeswick, Kirby Overblow round before supper time, and we had a pleasant ride despite the lack of coffee stop..(puncture stop instead)?? Sorry. 27 Milesand strangely 99 floors and 17,032 steps. CG







Wednesday Wanderers Ride

On a beautiful spring morning, after finally shedding several of our winter layers, a group of fourteen riders set off from Hornbeam in two groups; one led by myself and the second by Liz. By the time we arrived at Knaresborough Low Bridge we had a total of nineteen.

After winding our way round Knaresborough we arrived at the Boroughbridge Road. Some confusion about the planned route resulted in the first group heading directly to Farnham and the second group following the planned route via Lingerfield and Scotton meeting up again after Farnham.

On we continued, still in two groups, through Copgrove, Bishop Monkton and Littlethorpe where again we met up with the second group. At this point there was some concern over whether continuing in two groups would result in the first to arrive at Listers Farm Shop devouring all the cakes.

After continuing past Ripon Race Course and through Skelton on Ure, we arrived within a few minutes of each other and much to everyone's relief there was plenty to go round.

On the return journey we passed through Boroughbridge, Minskip and Stavely to Farnham. At this point some riders decided to add an extra loop through Scotton, Nidd and Ripley. The extra distance meant that some of us found it necessary to stop for another cake and drink at the church before returning via the Greenway to Harrogate.

A good ride in perfect conditions Final distance 35 or 41 or 43 miles depending on the route taken.
Andrew



Long Ride

10 Riders opted for the long ride on what promised to be a warm spring day. We used the Greenway to Ripley. On leaving the village we heard a very loud "bang". Not another sonic boom but unfortunately Dave's tyre was shredded and unrepairable. Richard help organise rescue and agreed to meet us in Masham. Meanwhile two faster riders had gone on ahead not to be seen again !. So in less than 8 miles 10 riders had become 6 !. We made our way slowly up to Brimham and onto the moor. The views were stunning and with a steady pace the hills were hardly noticed.

We descended to Masham via Laverton and across the common to a well earned lunch.

Our route out of the town was the "normal" easy option via Snape and the lure of a second cafe stop in the sun at Spa Gardens was enjoyed by all seven of us after Richard did make it to Masham ahead of the Peleton !. This was a welcome break from the odd playful but not serious "sprint" along the route.

Our return route was via Bishop Monkton where we split into "Greenway" Vs Knaresborough groups.

As usual with Wheel Easy rides, great company, an enjoyable route and good topics of conversation and for a change the start of summer !

60 miles, 1200M climbing and 19 Deg C

Martin D.



Medium Ride



Wednesday Ride







Medium Plus Ride

On a lovely morning with a warm day in prospect the decision to ride to Greenhow was quickly agreed by the group which, despite several regulars being away was quite large as it was boosted by 3 new members: Tim, Dave and Trish-welcome to Wheeeasy.

The aim was to make for Toft Gate Farm Cafe by a direct route and we set off for Beckwithshaw via the Rossett cycle path. Unfortunately Janet had a tumble and bumped her elbow and had to abandon and return home (best wishes from all of us and hope you are OK).

From Beckwithshaw we climbed Pot Bank and along Pennypot Lane and then past the base and then we made our way to Duck street and the climb to Greenhow.

When we reached the Stonehouse Pub Martin, Stuart and Dave turned off and made their way back to Harrogate whilst the rest pressed on towards our coffee break.

On reaching Toft Gate we were met by a 'closed' sign and so we retraced our steps and made our way down Peat Lane and into teacups for a well earned break.

We were sitting out in the now warm sun and enjoying our coffee and butties when Colin dropped in his bombshell- a suggestion to return home via Wath to Brimham with 'a bit more climbing...'

We were all eventually persuaded to tackle the route and we set off along the lane and started the climbing up a big bl....dy hill! However we all got stuck in and whilst most of us touched tarmac for a short while – except for Trish who won the King of the Mountains award by climbing all the way up non stop- well done Trish! However, we were rewarded with great views back over Gouthwaite and across Nidderdale.

After a breather and, to be honest, a pat on the back for all of us we set off to Brimham Rocks another climb and then we had the wonderful ride down to Ripley- just reward for our efforts.

At Ripley Colin had another plan...this time one much better received – a second stop at Ripley Church for tea and cake. Steve and Gia needed to be back so they set off and left six to enjoy another outdoor stop.

Then back towards the Greenway and Tim spun off towards Jennyfield with the rest of making our way back to Harrogate.

Everyone was really pleased they had taken on the hills on a warm day with great views across Nidderdale- we really saw it at its best!

44 Miles and 2600' of climbing and a ride that left you tired but happy. Well done to the 3 new riders-its not always that hilly! Kevin

EG's Ride

A great forecast, and the beginnings of a great day, and it was.

We had twenty riders at Low Bridge, including a couple of non regulars including Glyn who unfortunately still has to pay money to the government to keep most of the EG`s, so cannot attend on a regular basis, and also Chris not seen for many a monsoon, but sporting a beard, which he just had to show us.

It has been said that the technology on modern bikes is much greater than that on the first Moon Module, so see photo of one of our bikes handlebars.

First coffee stop Spa Gardens Cafe, if only to sit outside in this glorious weather.

Away went the fast riders, and it was eyeballs out for the first five miles, then sprint.

We actually thought we heard a second set of Yorkshire sonic boom`s.

Because of the fragmentation of the group the Occaney mens downhill was not detailed, however Dave P thought he was on a winner only to be overtaken by the lightweight division champion Dave W.

Sitting in the sun was wonderful, and Norman came round with a Birthday Card for Bill, now Bill has a special birthday coming up soon, but nobody actually knows when and the card said so.

After everybody signed the card Norman presented it to Bill, at this time he managed to get a head lock on him and extracted the info that it was tomorrow.

No messing now, this demanded a team photo with the Birthday Boy in the centre (All the best for Thursday Bill from the EG`s).

After caffeine and calories a team of twelve headed North, leaving the rest including Bill to make their own way back, lets hope they did, and did not take Bill to Wetherspoons and leave him there for the rest of the day.

For the twelve apostles (of good company riding) the intention had been to visit Northallerton, however Dave Watson suggested Thirsk to view the "Yarn Bombing", yes you may well ask, unless you have followed the tour closely (good call Dave).

The intention had been to bypass Bedale and use the A1 cycle path to Leeming Bar, which we have done before in reverse, not quite ?, but Leeming Bar was reached (no probs) and on to Ainderby Steeple, Newby Wiske, Maunby, Kirkby Wiske and Thirsk Market Square, splendidly decorated with knitting.

Being married to a keen knitter I was informed from the photos as seen what size needles had been used, and what type of wool.

After giving the beans a bashing it was on to Topcliffe and Boroughbridge, where six partook of afternoon tea, and t`other six returned home.

What a change in the weather, getting much warmer later, resulting in knees and elbows being exposed.

Summer might be too much to hope for, but could we be seeing a proper spring from now on?.

Hate to go on, but a great ride, mid seventies for some riders.

Dave P



