

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Wednesday Ride

Tweed Ride

John Russell came up with the plan to ride about 100 miles along the Tweed Cycle Way having cycled in the area with CTC many years ago.

On Monday morning five of the group took their bikes on the train from York to Edinburgh, then onto Carstairs which was the nearest station access point to get to the start of the route at Biggar. Malcolm drove the van north and met us in Innerleithen.

The first day we cycled 40 miles and passed through Peebles before spending the first night at Innerleithen. Day two was a similar mileage to Kelso via Melrose. Day three was just less than 30 miles to Berwick. At Berwick Malcolm and Gia headed north for a few days in the van, Paul returned home and John, Colin and Sue continued down the Northumberland coast to return home the next day.

The Tweed starts as a trickle at Biggar and gets wider as it flows on towards Berwick. The roads are quiet, the views beautiful with swathes of gorse. All spectacular! The borderland has a character of its own with green and rounded hills and undulating glens. The route doubles up in places with the Scottish C2C and the Four Abbeys route. We climbed to get a good view of the Eldon Hills at Scott's View, visited the Wallace statue, Melrose Abbey and much more. It is very manageable riding for us hardy Yorkshire folk and the quietness of the roads is a real bonus. We would recommend this ride.

Thanks to John for organising a great trip. John, Colin, Paul, Sue, Malcolm and Gia.









Wednesday Wanderers Ride

Our route was along the Greenway and Hollybank Lane to catch the end of this years bluebells. There were 11 of us and the main problem of the day seemed to be whether to remove or put on waterproofs! A bigger problem occurred at the road junction above Burnt Yates - Brimham Rocks Road was closed and probably will be for the next 7 weeks. We all continued up the Pately Road and used Stripe Lane - a 1st for many and considered an good alternative once it was pointed out that they would not like Hartwith Bank! At Brimham most of the group saw the black clouds and donned waterproofs again. Mike decided on the short route back via Warsill while the rest headed for the B6265 and soon turned off on to the lovely lane into Sawley. We turned off to head back up Watergate Lane and as we returned via the Drovers the rain got heavier. Our planned stop at Ripley, where Mike rejoined us having consumed a scone, was voted against by all as by now soaked we all quickly headed on the most direct routes home. About 34 miles.

Liz P



Poddlers Ride

It was pretending to rain, but really it was quite pleasant, no wind anyway. Two or three Poddlers' had been put off venturing out. But (with apologies to James) we left Hornbeam car park with indecent haste, in an attempt to beat the rain home.....11 o'clock was the time rain was forecast. John wanting a gentle ride today decided to join us. So after a photo opportunity with some blue bells, we hit the hills...well slight ups to most normal cyclist, I suppose. Holly Bank, Clint Bank, Cut Throat Lane, up to the Fountains turn off, right turn near the iconic tree, down to Markington, up the hill back to the ex Drovers' pub (soon to be what looks like a village). We saw the rain that we had so far avoided across the valley, which as we locked up our bikes and went into Ripley church for coffee and cake started to tip it down. Relaxing with coffee and a cream tea we discovered an escapee from the Wanderers, who we disturbed with our noisy gossiping. The rain has stopped as we left for the Greenway and home, magically starting with determination as I put the bike into the garage. Thank you Monica and John you sorted out world problems, with possibly the exception of Americans voting for Trump and what should be done with a Trump supporter who made Sarah Palin seem like the most sensible politician on earth and who called Jim McNaughtly baby cakes in what I thought was a comedy interview. 25 miles, 13,456 paces and 60 floors. CG



EG's Ride

We had twelve good men and true at Low Bridge, and the weather forecast was not good (again), but were we dismayed, not a bit, in fact we had two sets of naked knees.

First coffee stop Tadcaster, and away we went in the drizzle, breaking into to a fast group and one of a more sedate nature.

As usual Dan ordered a fry up, however as it was past a certain time it could not be a breakfast, but as it came on a teacake sliced in two it was allowed as a breakfast bun. (see photo).

After refuelling some riders made their own way home, Norman and Theo headed for Catterton, the rest of us to Bolton Percy, then Colin left us to head for Colton.

Because of the threat of rain the rest of us declined the visit to Acaster Selby (to see which way the river was flowing) and continued on to Acaster Malbis, then what had threatened became reality and down it came with a vengeance, and a very wet, cold group of riders made it in to to the Cycle Heaven Cafe, there was no other way to describe it it was "heaven" warm and dry.

Since last Sunday when James came to DP's aid with "Swarfega Wipes" DP has carried a similar item in his kit, however this downpour would have washed any grease or oil away, in fact probably the dye out of your socks. After hot drinks and hot soup a sense of normality returned and we had (as usual) some laughs round the table. As we redressed still wetish there was no desire to extend the ride, so the cycle path to Askham Richard route was chosen.

As we proceeded Terry won "man of the match" award by by pacing us to Marston Moor, however as the EG's do not have the resources of the football league, he only received our grateful thanks.

Despite the bad weather it was a good ride with a mileage somewhere between the high 50's and low 60's. Just for Eric's information out of this "magnificent seven" comprising Dan, Dave Peatfield, Dave Preston, Dave Siswick, Dave Watson, Nick and Terry, 57% were Daves. Dave P.



Wednesday Ride

Despite the forecast or may be because of it there were five hardy riders for today's Wednesday Ride and so Monica, Martin, Tim and Charlie joined me in a run out to Raskelf via Beningborough. We were all clad for the continuous rain that was forecast, but which didn't materialise until much later in the day as far as we were concerned and so layers were shed as we progressed to Beningborough where an early coffee break was taken at the behest of Martin, but with little opposition from the rest of us! We then headed for Raskelf via Tollerton and Flawith, but with a slight diversion due to a lack of concentration, which only became apparent when we hit the A 19 and I suddenly realised was not the route! Having corrected that we made Raskelf and opted to continue to Boroughbridge or Ripon for a late lunch. Martin, Tim and Charlie peeled off at Thonton Bridge after posing for the photo to have something to eat in Boroughbridge and Monica and I went on to Ripon and enjoyed the delights of Oliver's Pantry before returning to Knarsborough where we encountered the only major shower of rain. 63 JamesG.



Long Ride

Richard L, Richard P, Dave and I were led from Hornbeam by our intrepid leader Martin with a loose agreement to head for Stean cafe via Brimham Rocks. The weather looked slightly ominous but the Chaps seemed on good form with an early attempt to wind up Richard L by the suggestion of an off road route to Ripley. On our arrival at Ripley via The Greenway we headed down through the Estate and climbed up through Clint to the turn off to Brimham. We were met by signs stating the road was closed so we continued onwards unfazed to investigate. Having been flagged down by a car whose occupant told us there was no chance of getting through, democracy dictated that we ignored the friendly advice and pushed on regardless. Cometh the hour cometh the man. Martin forged ahead and entered into negotiations with the Highway Maintenance crew. One can only assume that they didn't ask for Martin's views on the EU as after a friendly exchange we were waved through the various trucks and diggers laying drainage at the road side. Having climbed up to the crossroads we held a quick conflag and agreed to turn right and looped round to descend Blazefield Bank before turning right at Fellbeck and climbing across the moors. We began to drop down Wath Lane as the heavens opened. As we crept across the drainage ditches in the pouring rain it certainly felt a little edgy. Towards Lofthouse the roads were dry and we made the cafe without further incident. Beans on toast all round save for Richard L who made a special request for an off-menu omelette much to the envy of everyone else. The discussion was as cerebral as ever and varied from ignoring food use by dates, corruption in Russia and China, energy security and counterfeit goods. After lunch we set off towards Pateley Bridge but didn't get very far before a diversion to Scar House Reservoir was agreed instead of climbing York's Folly. We then headed back to Pateley Bridge where Martin rejoined the group after having opted out of the climb to the reservoir. The sunshine disappeared as we dashed for home and once again we got a little damp. A good ride of 58.5 miles in very enjoyable company. JPS

