

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers' Ride

Our Illustrious Leader was back from her hols, but needed to do a short ride as she was entertaining at lunch time. So Dennis volunteered to lead us up to Little Almscliffe, along to Penny Pot Lane, turning left to descend to Kettlesing. Here the aforesaid leader swooped off to Killinghall to feed a friend's stray cat! So Monica, Jayne, Bridget and I followed Dennis down to Hampsthwaite, whereupon he sped off home, leaving the four of us to enjoy the delights of Sophie's, sitting in the sunshine. We resumed our ride up to Killinghall, and then joined the Greenway to wend our way back to Harrogate. A lovely ride in glorious weather, with a lot of chatting and laughing. 24 miles Jen A





### **Wednesday Wanderers' Ride**

There were 16 Wanderers on this beautiful and not windy morning but I have a feeling that Glyn missed the count! Dave G kindly offered to lead a 2nd group. Our route was Ripley and up past the Drovers and Warsill, up to Brimham. It was all uphill but the views made it worthwhile. We were kept on our toes (or rather bikes!) as every time we stopped for a rest Dave's group appeared and we had to move on! We all did have a rest and banana break near Brimham giving time to soak up the views with lots of purple heather in the foreground. After Brimham we turned down through Smelthouses and there were quite a few relieved comments that we weren't going in the reverse direction! At Wilsill we split into small groups for the ride down to Hartwith toll bridge and Mike S kindly offered to lead this section as there was a delay at the back due to a chain problem. The road was fairly quiet but we managed to come across one suicidal motorist. Mike then took the group via Birstwith, Clint and Hollybank Woods to Ripley while a few waited for the chain fixers and egg buyers. Soon we were all at Ripley and many of us enjoyed coffee and cake in the church gardens as well as singing Happy Birthday to Glyn. After refreshments I headed back to Harrogate with two Davids and one Mike but it looked as if some were not going to move for a long while! About 30 miles. Thanks to Dave G and Mike S for helping out.  
Liz Pugh





### **Wednesday Ride**

Eight of us out for a day among the heather and long-distance views. Little Almscliffe, the very first bit of Duck Street (for the first proper heather) then right before the Stonehouse pub, dropping down to Thornthwaite church, back up onto the moor top for more heather, and down Two Stoops (Yorke's Folly) to Teacups. Wath, the Sportsman pub, and then most of us walked up the big hill with the drainage channels and magnificent views.....to more heather at the top. Brimham (heather) and that wonderful run down to Ripley and more tea at the church. And in all the excitement, I think the only photo we got was in the churchyard! Colin T



### **Wednesday Long Ride**

There was a very full turn-out for the long ride today, mustering 10 in all with two to collect from Piccadilly in Knaresborough. Overnight e-mails had secured the destination which was to be White Horse Bank and the glider club cafe. The usual choking traffic at Bond End dropped two of us from the main bunch, requiring a time-trial to re-join them at Farnham crossroads. Lesley and Richard must have climbed on to a very fast-moving train at Piccadilly. For reasons that were never very clear, the pace to Boroughbridge was furious; the comfort stop (photo) was a blessing in more than one way!

The bunch broke naturally into two pace groups for the preparatory climbs before the main event. Passing "Mousy" Thompson's wood yard we noted the extent of the oak stockpile, estimated to be 30 years' worth; security measures needed, we mused. Soon it was the main event – White Horse Bank, which did at least have

the benefit of shade from the trees. August holiday traffic made this trek up to the car park one of the less enjoyable ones, but fortunately the number going up exceeded those coming down. Nevertheless, there was sufficient traffic to preclude our choosing the ideal lines on the bends. After the car park, traffic disappeared and we could take the final kick-up as we liked, ducking instinctively as planes towed their gliders above us. Once in the cafe, our order for multiple beans on toast soon had the sole kitchen operator going at full tilt, resulting in the Panini –eaters having to scoff at top speed to catch up the rest – the theme of the day, perhaps.

The return journey began as did the outward – at full throttle along A170 to the Wass Bank turn. Soon we had turned in Coxwold, said hello to “Bill and Ben”, and waved farewell to John and Trefor who opted to retrace back to Harrogate. Any thought that the pace might slacken now that two of the faster brethren had gone was soon dispelled as a long string developed en route to Crayke and Huby, although a brief photo stop at Byland Abbey and water stops seemed to slow the front runners a little. Eventually the heat of the afternoon took its toll and we all fell upon the shop in Tollerton seeking drinks and shade, as our photo shows.

Thank you to Richard P for his uncanny knowledge of watering holes in an area not known for its cafes. From Tollerton the string stayed together to complete the last miles along the well-worn route over Aldwark Bridge (with some new planks that stand proud of the rest – be warned) and home via Arkendale, Sandy Bank and Knaresborough where the peel-offs began. Final goodbyes were said at the golf club after a hot, pacy but always enjoyable day out. Mileages were 65-70 with c3000 ft. ascent. Terry Smith







### **EGs' Ride**

We had eleven riders at Low Bridge on a warm sunny day. Martin and Yvonne were also there for a chat with us, Martin had been subjected to some stupid driving, but fortunately was OK.

Our first coffee stop was to be Tadcaster. We were lead there by Bob, although not on the same blistering form as he was last Wednesday, the pace was good. In the Lemon Tree cafe the toasted teacakes came fast and in numbers. After which Bob, Norman and Terry took their own route for the day.

The remaining eight headed for Cawood. The intention was to take in part of the route of the Vintage Cycles ride, and the bridle path alternative shown to us previously by Peter B, hence to be known as "Pete's Path". From Cawood it was up the B1222 to Stillingfleet.

Whilst pointing out the sharp left turn to Naburn we suddenly became aware we were stood outside the Cross Keys Pub, it was blisteringly hot, and the pub was invitingly cool inside, and we are just weak willed men. The beer was Sam Smith's, not an overpriced beer, which made it taste even better. A pre-lunch drink certainly stimulates the appetite, and Nick expressed concerns about when we might partake of lunch? Now we could have lunched at Cycle Heaven Cafe with its healthy salads, soups and flans, or Strawberry Fields Cafe and calories and cholesterol on a plate or between two slices of bread.

Once again we are only weak willed men, however Strawberry Fields is supposed to close at 2-00pm, panic? not a bit, Eric and the fast guys were sent ahead and prevent that horrible occurrence, and the lads done good, see photographic evidence on our plates.

At the Millennium Bridge Nick and Dave W headed for home via Tockwith, however Peter B wanted to head for Benningborough through York centre, so we did, however whilst passing through York we kept hearing this plaintive cry "Is that a Sam Smith's house over there".

Afternoon tea was taken at Home Farm Cafe Benningborough, but to do penance for our previous sins, three of the teas were taken with lemon only.

The sated six, Colin, Dave P, Eric, Geoff, Peter B and Roy then headed for home.

Congratulations to Roy who topped his best (for a while) with 75 miles in his wheels.

A nice ride in good weather, a little different, ideas abounding!, could the Wheel Easy 100 be based on a pub crawl ??, sorry only joking. Dave P



