

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Today would be the last chance to do a longer ride before May 2019, as we had had so much dry weather that grey wet weather would be coming our way.....to stay. Benningbrough has been mentioned so that was to be included our chosen route. We did not bargain with a) losing the route and b) losing people. It all started so well, with almost an E.G. guard of honour at Low Bridge, five sedate and professing to be slow ladies set out for and arrived at the farm café making perfect time for a sandwich or cake. We were delighted to see the Big Boys and Girls from the Wednesday Riders basking outside in glorious sunshine.

We had decided to take the Whixley Hunsingore route home instead of retracing our tyre tracks, however on leaving our café stop our leader took a right turn instead of a left turn and took the group on a wild goose chase to nearly York. For this I apologise... Suddenly coming to my senses, I realised that we had to get to Aldwalk Bridge somehow or we would be swimming across the Ouse before we could go home. Thus focussing the mind we got back on route having had lots of advice, four extra miles of cycling, we were momentarily back on track, until Geraldine and Paula escaped.....We'll meet them in Great Ouseburn we said, as we cunningly cut off a corner. We did not. After a little communing over the airwaves with the kindly escapees...now searching for three lost riders, we were finally reunited and returned home as quickly as the sedatest Poddlers' could manage, meeting a returning E.G. gliding up the horrid hill at Knaresborough. Thank you all the participating poddlers' you did well to go sooo slowly. 45miles for most of us, and in the world of Fitbittery 25,324 paces and 112 floors. Caroline G



Wanderers' Ride

Thirteen Wanderers today, once they had been rounded up and sent to the right car park! We did set off as two groups but by the time we reached Rossett Ave, Liz F had another problem with her brakes so everyone caught up and instead we just rode in small groups between stops.

It was a misty start as we passed Little Almscliffe, Fewston, Timble and Blubberhouses but there were plenty of wonderful views to be had and eventually a bit of sunshine appeared. There was a photo call at Thruscross Dam, then on up to the Stonehouse Inn where a few sighs of relief were heard as we now could actually do some downhill and flat riding!

The route was Thornthwaite, Darley, Birstwith and Clint then along Holly Bank Lane into Ripley where 12 hungry souls piled into Ripley Church asking for cake. We were soon served and sat in the sunshine enjoying the cake and the conversation, though there seemed to be a lot of confusion over similar words or maybe it was just the sugar that had gone to a few heads! About 30 very hilly miles, 2493 ft of climbing but then you don't get such fantastic views on a flat ride. Liz P



Wednesday Ride

It was grey, cool and distinctly autumnal as fourteen riders set off on the Wednesday ride initially splitting into two groups which formed and separated as the day went on. The weather was kind to us as the sun came out and layers were shed. Less kind was Kevin who cunningly tricked me into agreeing to attempt a ride report. Definitely a challenge given my vague grasp of the ride geography. We certainly started at Hornbeam, most made it back to Harrogate and a sunny lunch was enjoyed outside Beningbrough farm shop. In between my recollection of the route is hazy but included a toll bridge and lots of pretty lanes winding through the woods and fields. Lacking a Garmin statistics were scant but we probably cycled 40 to 50 miles and almost certainly climbed less than 1000m. Many thanks to James and Gia for the suggested route and directions. A lovely late September day out. Charlie.



Off-Road Ride

Just three of us to-day for a ride from Osmotherley to Sutton bank top along the Cleveland way. Misty to start, but improving throughout the day, with bursts of sunshine but no really long-distance views. Back almost completely the same way, we hardly touched the tarmac at all.



Wednesday Long Ride

Seven riders turned out for the Wednesday Long Ride, the only problem was that without Terry Smith we were leaderless. As usual on such occasions we resorted to the old faithful of Lofthouse via Masham as the easy

option. The ride was reasonably trouble free as we made our way along the Greenway and then the well-trodden route to Masham going via Scarah Bank, Fountains, Winksley, Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe. At Masham it was pleasant enough to sit outside and have something to eat. Next came the assault on Lofthouse which was accomplished with great effort. At the summit we were faced with the dilemma of where to eat, Tea Cups or How Stean? A show a hands indicated that Tea Cups was the most popular choice. After a steady ride down Nidderdale we arrived at Pateley Bridge. After some substantial plates of food it was off on the return journey to Harrogate. The return route took us through Bewerley, Glasshouses and then to Summerbridge where we turn right to Dacre Banks and onto Darley. Again a trouble free ride back to Harrogate via Birstwith and Hampsthwaite. Peter J



EGs' Ride

The last day of summer(!!!) was accompanied by a distinct chill in the air calling for wind-proof tops and long fingered gloves. Dave P peeled off at Bishop Monkton on our outward leg, needing to return early to home, whilst the remaining ten continued to Spa Gardens where Dan, as usual, enjoyed his second breakfast. With no notice to plan a route Dave W., following refreshment, suggested a direction towards the Grantleys. Five members declined including Terry W. who needed to return early to meet a previous engagement. Norman led the group of five on a shortened flat route whilst the remaining five headed off west towards Galphey (locals don't pronounce the "el")

Peter B. deserted the more ambitious group (was it something I said?) at the garden centre leaving Dan, Marvin, Terry and deputy leader Dave W. to continue upwards and onwards.

Reaching Galphey we, at last, were able to divest ourselves of at least one layer except Dan, who already down to his "T" shirt, couldn't decide which sock to remove, left or right!!

Our route continued to be "lumpy" and not surprisingly meandering where direction were decided as we approached each junction.

Both Grantleys being visited we headed on towards Masham through Laverton, Kirkby Malzard and Grewelthorpe. As is his habit Dave W. requested a bowl of baked bean with toast, to be presented with the largest bowl ever. Sorry Dave S. you missed out!!

Following lunch we headed off further north turning left at Masham bridge and taking the next right so we could head off up even more hills for the "glen" leading to Well. Now turning south we were into the wind so, albeit we were now on the flat part of the route, progress slowed a little.

Returning through Wath, Melmerby, and Rainton we reached Boroughbridge where the consensus was to stop for further refreshment. Dave W. needed to continue on leaving the remaining group to enjoy topping up their reserves no doubt Dan having the equivalent of yet another "full breakfast". (where does he put it?)

Despite the cooler and cloudier weather we had a great ride completing about 65 miles for most protagonists. Thanks for your great company. Dave W