

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Again glorious clear skies and hardly any wind...a nip in the air..... six keen ladies raring to go.....a coffee stop arranged at Ripley church.....perfect. We set off in the same direction as the Wanderers mingling as we ride for further mingling with the E.G.s at Low Bridge. We did a swift dash to Boroughbridge.....well I thought it was swifta cross country short cut via Roecliffe and Copgrove to the Mount Garrard estate where bridge crossing took on a new meaning.....we were like trained SAS manoeuvres.....But despite all this our (my) speed let us down we were nearly late for our coffee and cake rendezvous with the knitters at Ripley Church. Jen, Monica and Zoe (Caroline, Sue and Linda did not) zoomed ahead and prevented a religious incident by stopping the vicar eating our cake. And what particularly good cakes there were...red velvet and coffee and walnuts suitable for any of the life like saints that were lurking round the church. A super morning out...lovely to see you out on a Wednesday again Linda...Thank you everyone for being such good company. 28 miles, 18,984 paces and 97 floors.....in about 6 hours or so. C.G



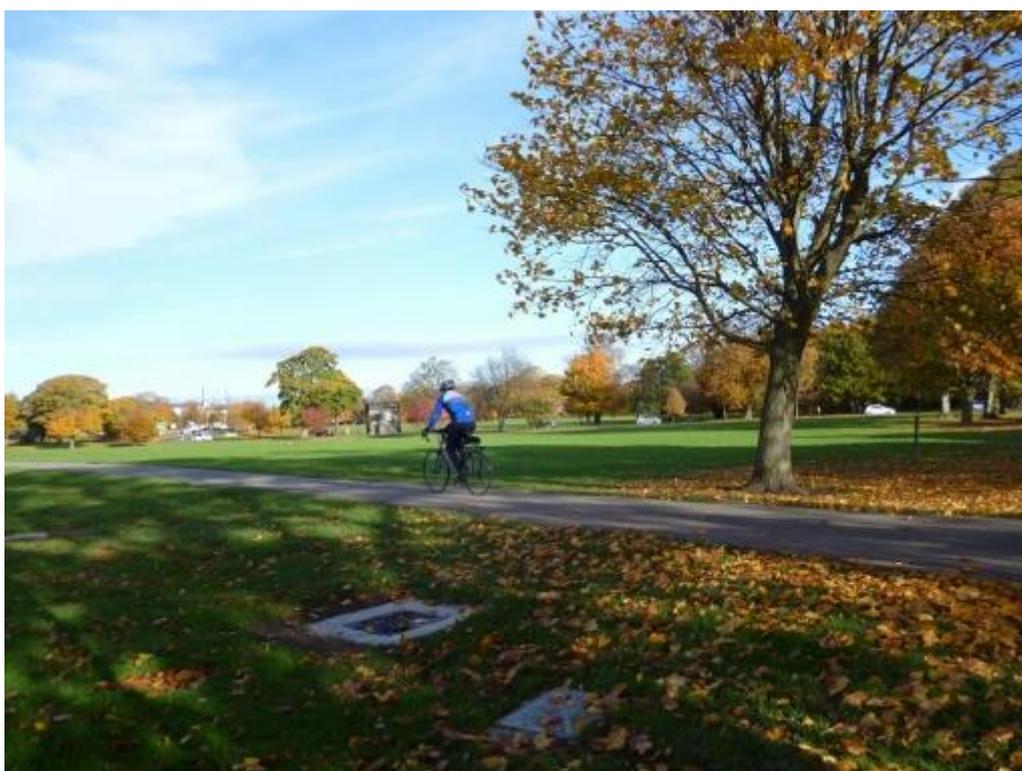
Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

A beautiful autumn morning and by Low Bridge there were 17 Wanderers. We split into 2 fluid groups with Mike S leading the second a little way behind. Groups of 4 riders seemed to work better after every 5th person (at any time) was asked to be responsible for leaving a gap between the group in front. It still allowed groups to change at every stop. At Arkendale it was decided it was too early for coffee but Gordon, Dennis and Max returned home from here. We continued past Marton and Great Ouseburn, posing for a photo near the Mausoleum, soon arriving at Tancred Farm. Here we had a warm welcome and were soon tucking in to toasted teacakes, bacon butties or even a full breakfast. The return route was through Whixley, over the A59 (easily!) and the railway crossing, Walshford and into Little Ribston where we said goodbye to Al, Alan, Michael and Steve. Then back via Spofforth. Mileage appeared to be about 35. Thanks to Mike for all his help and to everyone for dutifully leaving gaps though we still had a few bad tempered motorists. Liz P



Wednesday Ride - Gia's Group

On one of the best autumn days we have had for a long time when the sky was blue most of the time, the sun shone, albeit without much heat and there was little or no wind, the route to Greygarth was a delight with the autumn colours probably at their best, The chill in the air hinted at what is to come, but for now we enjoyed a great ride with excellent company and by a unanimous decision opted for a later coffee stop at Fountains when the majority of the ride (and the hills!) were behind us. We followed the usual route to Ripley, the Drovers and Sawley, with a brief stop at Risplith for me to take water on board having left my bottle at home. Than on through Grantley and over the moors to Greygarth. No sign of Colin and Andrew as we took the fairground ride to Kirby Mallard and pushed on via Winksley Banks to a very welcome break at Fountains where card board cups and plates have replaced the usual crockery, but the queue and the service remain the same. Having discussed old fashioned attitudes to dress code and generally set the world to rights we returned home via the Drovers and the Greenway with plenty of daylight still left. Just over 40 miles and 1000metres of climbing. Thanks to Gia for the photos and to all for your company. James G







Wednesday Ride - Helen & Keith's Group

We think Colin and Kevin have made a pact with the devil. They have sold their souls in exchange for a brilliant summer, a golden September, a glorious October and, so far, a magnificent November. All their Away Days and Wednesdays have produced sunshine, light winds and no rain.

There were large numbers wanting to do the ride to Greygarth Monument, a Wheel Easy favourite, so Keith and I took a group of seven, leaving the rest to Kevin. We did merge and demerge, overtake and undertake each other, lost one and gained none along the way.

We were almost speechless with joy as we undulated along the quiet lanes, moving inexorably upwards to the top of Dallowgill Moor. As advertised our goal of Greygarth Tower could be seen and we were soon being marched up to the top to admire more tremendous views. Steve offered us all some rather nice, large jelly sweets – which we politely consumed. This gave us just enough energy to enjoy the Laverton descent and to up the pace all the way to Fountains tea rooms. This was a welcome oasis after quite a long first half. Sir John and Steve left us at this point and so the final four, comprising Keith, me, Maris and Michael made our way briskly back to Hornbeam, via the Greenway.

Another great day, in great company. Not sure what will happen next week – there will be a new President Elect in the USA and anything could happen. Helen & Keith



Wednesday Ride - Colin's Group

Just two of us took the track option to Greygarth.

Pateley (via Dacre) for a feed at "teacups", then Ramsgill and over the track to Greygarth. Lots of heather burning off, and views of Great Wherside, Roseberry Topping, Simon's Seat, and Greygarth tower, which we were above.

Wonderful run down to Risplith for a second stop, and home the usual way.

Home at 3.30, couldn't ask for a better day.

Wednesday Long Ride

After the hilly exertions of last week, today's ride headed south into the cafe desert that lies beyond Lotherton. Eyes were focussed on South Milford where internet research suggested there might be an oasis to discover. But, it was a risk: if the cafe turned out to be a dud, it would mean a lengthy trek to Lotherton to recover the situation. Outward to Wetherby via the smooth tarmac of Walton Head Lane, we came across a

crumpled Mercedes being rescued to be followed very shortly by a stranded Porsche awaiting rescue near Sicklinghall – not a good day for expensive cars, then. We opted for the road across Wetherby Racecourse as an alternative to the dog-poo subway under A1(M) and were rewarded by the views out across the Vale. Choosing to by-pass Tadcaster, using Rudgate and a loop around to Stutton, we snuck through Grimston Park to be rewarded again with gorgeous autumn colours on the beeches (photos attest). Once out of the park we were into the flatlands proper, ticking off Ulleskelf and Church Fenton on our way to the busy roads around Sherburn and heading into the cafe desert. Lots of new housing must surely bring some change in this respect. We reached South Milford just before noon to discover that T-Post cafe (not sure how that's pronounced, nor what it means) is well up to scratch as a cycle-friendly spot. A good mix of traditional cafe food and a relaxed attitude about time-limits for breakfast items from the obliging staff left us a good impression and a resolve to call again soon to sample their speciality cakes. Lesley and Richard opted to retrace steps towards Tadcaster for an early finish, leaving six to head for the old A1 past the former Boot and Shoe pub, once such a welcome landmark on pre-M1 journeys to Leeds. Continuing along the old Great North Road we ticked off limestone villages – Micklefield, Aberford and Bramham – and gazed again at the fabulous autumn colours. Diverting at Bramham for Collingham, we were greeted cheerily by a couple walking their dog up the hill at Jewitt Lane. Further down the slope Trefor stopped to pick up a smart phone lying in the road and Peter confirmed that the screen-saver picture was of the dog seen up the hill. Donning a white knight guise, Trefor cycled back up the hill to re-unite phone and owner to gain kudos for him and, we hope, many more cyclists. With Linton Bridge repairs no further forward, it was the busy A58 that took us into Wetherby for a second stop, this time at Morrison's cafe. Trefor and Richard L pressed on home without the stop, leaving four of us to continue the old A1 theme by bumping northwards along A168. We should have taken the cycle path, as the road's surface was rather grim. More limestone villages soon saw us coasting down from Follifoot to negotiate the two remaining climbs to Crimble Lane and the Showground Greenway and home. Over 60 miles in flawless autumn sun with eye-catching colours and a good cafe find – a grand day out. Terry Smith





EGs' Ride

We a delightful? dozen riders (if you can believe that) at Low Bridge and the first ride in Greenwich mean time. It was also the first Wednesday in the Month of the winter season and the soup kitchen was now open, only joking, the delightful village hall at Helperby/Brafferton Village. So no coffee break and straight on for lunch.

The route being Farnham, Ferrensby (no coffee break here Ian waved us straight through) and on to Aldwark Bridge.

EG`s conversations and the subjects discussed during a ride are a wonder to all.

One naive rider asked Roy why a week off the bike was needed before a blood test; it seems that saddle pressure can inhibit the flow of substances particular to gentlemen? it was all downhill from then on finishing with the TV programme Yorkshire Vet, rams not performing as they should and devices that when inserted sent out an electrical charge, all resulting in riders being uneasy about taking a comfort break behind a hedge.

At Aldwark bridge it was right towards Linton-on-Ouse, this was a detour to prevent us getting to early at the village hall for lunch, however the left turn chosen was later realised to have a rough track finish so it was on to Newton-on-Ouse and left to the minor road to Tollerton, Flawith and Helperby/Brafferton and its village hall, the main group arriving at 12-30pm.

After tasty lunch consisting 3/4 choices of soup, bread, cheese and biscuits, tea/coffee and sweet biscuits, note Dan survived on only two bowls of soup, it was back to Thornton Bridge.

On the return to Boroughbridge, there was canvassing for a Ripon loop, not many answered to call, only Dan, Eric and Ian. At Boroughbridge Norman and Roy chose to take afternoon tea, the remaining famous five took the last of the sun on a nice day to return home.

A nice Autumn day, sun with a nip in the air (sorry non pc) and only a slight wind. Dave P

