

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 552

Short Ride

Great ride today setting off with nine riders and picking up Paul Blackham at Rudding. Temporarily lost four at Spofforth when Monica had a mechanical problem. James kindly went to look for them and we were very soon reunited. Thanks James.

No further problems and we very quickly arrived in Knaresborough where 3 of us decided we had time to fit in a cafe stop whilst the remainder carried on home. Sitting in the sun at the Watermill was a lovely interlude before setting off to home and head for lunch at the hockey club.

Thanks to Caroline for backmarking. Jean B



Medium Ride

Cold, but dry and bright, perfect for a short outing in advance of the Christmas lunch. Twelve went to Little Almscliffe, Fewston, Timble and Pennypot, with just two incidents to report.

Colette turned left instead of right as we hit Fewston for the first time, which as luck would have it was downhill, but a rescue party was dispatched immediately and guided her back onto the route. And, we came upon a

sheep with its head stuck in a fence a short way down Pennypot Lane. Where's a vet when you need one? Aha! We had one! Paul, back with us after a while off his bike, duly freed it. Four headed off towards Hampsthwaite, while the remaining eight of us returned to Harrogate, in plenty of time to don glad rags for the afternoon. A very enjoyable ride, thanks to Andrew and Liz for back marking. Justin K

Medium-Plus Ride

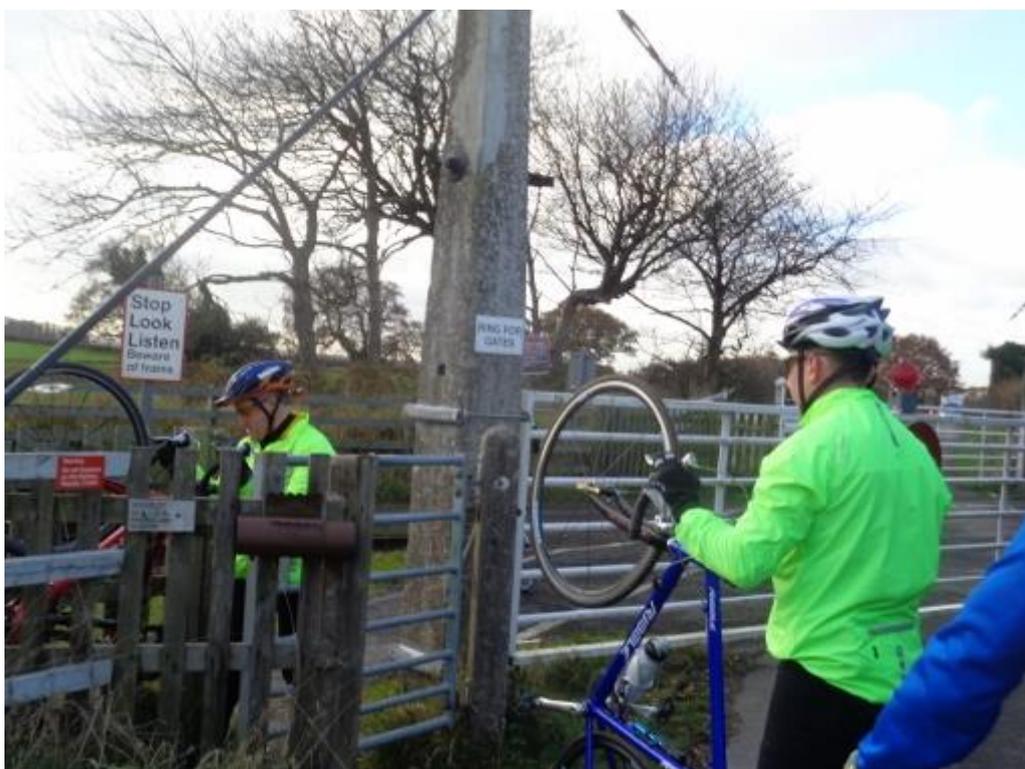
Three groups left Hornbeam at different stages and on rendez-vous at Low Bridge, Gia suggested a quicker way to Arkendale via Goldsborough and Coneythorpe. As the need to be back in time for the Xmas Lunch was top of the agenda today, this suggestion was gratefully received. For some this was the first time they had ridden this route and they enjoyed the new lanes and views.

A good pace was set in the chill of the day and soon we were at Thorpe Underwood on our way to a welcome warm coffee stop at Tancred Farm. Before that however - a rather amusing incident at Great Ouseburn. Sarah was deep in conversation with me on a subject to do with the opposite sex and in a rather loud voice said - "Men – they just don't get it!" She wasn't going to get away with it though, as one of said obtuse creatures walking his dog on the nearside pavement retorted - "Oh yes they do!" So be on your guard ladies when having these delicate chats!

After crossing the railway line near Whixley, the track became rather muddy and Sue C came to the rescue of several blocked mudguards with her trusty metal skewer. That clean up operation completed, the focus was to get back quickly to clean and beautify our bikes and ourselves in anticipation of some fine fayre at the Hockey Club and we weren't disappointed. Monica W







There was a festive spirit in the air at Hornbeam as people were gearing up for the Xmas lunch and all the rides being geared towards being back to get party gear on. As I had done the Arkendale ride recently and not having time constraints as I was being a party pooper I looked around for someone to go to the hills with on what was a pretty good day weather wise.

Colin took about 30 seconds to agree and Maris soon joined to make it a trio and we set off for Greygarth across the Stray and onto the Greenway. We mixed with the crowds at Ripley on the way to the Xmas Event but soon got into the countryside and quieter roads as we headed for Sawley and coffee at G and T's. The climbing soon warmed us up and we were starting to enjoy the views as we pulled into the cafe for coffee and cake.

With the sun coming out we made our way towards Grantley and the climb up to the monument which was bathed in sunshine. A quick photo stop and then we were on our way on the return leg enjoying the downhill and pulling up the hills.

We turned towards Winksley and made our way towards Fountains Abbey and a second tea break.

The cafe was full of people enjoying the winter sun and we enjoyed more tea and a mince pie (we were getting in the Xmas spirit!) before we set off back home past the Traveller camp and the final climb of the day before descending down to Ripley and negotiating the crowds who were now making their way home laden down with their Xmas purchases.

The Greenway was quieter than usual and we were soon passing the Harrogate High School entrance and we thought about calling in and seeing if there were any leftovers! However we decided against it and crossed the Stray and home.

It was a great ride and it was amazing to be able to do such a ride without any problems this late in the year. Thanks to Colin and Maris for the company and 'going for the hills'. 42 enjoyable miles. Kevin D



Today was the day of the always excellent Wheel Easy Xmas Party. But for a variety of reasons including driving to work away Sunday PM and tea with Grandchildren some of us were giving it a miss.

Seven of us who weren't partying left Hornbeam for a ride I had advertised on Facebook to the Strawberry Fields Café at Crockey Hill (which is just south of York on the A19). It took us just about 2 hours to get there in the sunshine. The roads were very quiet as we picked our way via Waterside to Cowthorpe onto Tockwith and Askham Bryan to join the York Cycleway going south. Leaving this just after Naburn Station we joined the A19 for about 500 metres to access the café. The Strawberry Fields Cafe is always cosy at this time of year making it popular with cyclists, we were soon tucking into Breakfast Baps and a huge pot of tea.

Returning on the cycleway to cross the river we left at Bishopthorpe to return via Acaster Malbis, Appleton Roebuck, Oxton Lane and Walton. Here we joined the cycle path to cross the Racecourse and return via Kirk Deighton, Spofforth and Follifoot arriving back at 2.15pm. Fifty or so flat miles on a sunny December day with a warming café stop. All things considered there wasn't much not to like. AndyC



Long Ride

Five left Hornbeam; Andy joined us; Dave left us; Andy and I left the other three; Andy left me. Later I found Eric had somehow missed us completely at Green Lane roundabout!

A beautiful day with little wind, some sunshine (or was that my yellow sunglasses lenses?). Great views, including to the snow on Great Whernside. Maybe ice on the road above York's Folly.

A nice bacon sandwich at Tea Cups. Yet another miscount on the way up through Glasshouses. Must remember the first small hill is not part of the three big bits! The last bit was tough. A car stopping at the bridge before Pot Bank - not good and a good brake test!!

Overall: Ten out of ten from me. John H