

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Ride

Today's advertised ride to Greygarth Monument was threatened by an early morning fog but with trust in the weather forecast and making last minute decisions there were more than 16 takers for the ride.

The ride down the Greenway is particularly cold at the best of times and today was no exception but with the sun shining we knew that we were in for a good day.

At Ripley we all met up but agreed to keep our split of two groups and we expected when we arrived at G&T's to find Andrew's group installed. They clearly had other ideas.

We were very pleased that Peter B of the EG's joined us for this ride a great example of the variety of rides on offer within the club and the ease of cycling with different groups. James won the most chivalrous award for serving Peter his tea and cake outside. Peter was grabbing some extra vitamin D.

Here Martin left us to return via Brimham, Jeannie left us at Ripley to have tea and the rest of us cycled up and up to Greygarth which today was magnificent, wonderful views, great cycling and pretty lanes.

We were all in no doubt that today justified a second cafe stop (EG influence??) so we settled in at Fountains meeting a couple of other WE cyclists just leaving.

Home via the usual route, met Malcolm on the Greenway and then a photo with the partially finished millennium post which several riders had passed on the way out and not noticed.

We were so lucky to have such a splendid day to do this ride which has to be one of our best. Thanks to fellow riders, Colin, Kevin, James, Sarah C, Sarah R, Peter B and Martin and Jeannie who set off with us. 43 miles. Gia

Objective- Greygarth monument- and back

Equipment - 1 Garmin [courtesy of Andrew]

Group - 3 x Mike + 5 others [Andrew, Liz F, Maris, Steve W., Alison]
Plus late arrival at High Grantley [Paul R]

Terrain - Hilly

Outcome 6 completed full route.
2 made an early return [Maris, Steve]
1 returned home to Grewelthorpe

Stats- 40 miles; 4,000feet; 8 pairs of tired legs

Conclusion A great, if challenging route. Thanks to Colin for suggestion.
Wonderful winter weather. Cheerful company.

Alison N.





Poddlers Ride

Oh my, oh my.....Oh what a beautiful morning, Oh what a beautiful day, Eight different Poddlers' wanting to go o my way. Actually I do believe there were quite a lot of weedy feeling people, who craved a gentle sort of Poddle....so that is what they got. Always a joy to see the E.G.s congregating at Low Bridge...their Leader or Chronicler checking who he had seen, ready to report to Higher Authorities. So off to Farnham and the start of the E.G.s downhill cruise.....Dave Siswick's secrets being noted. Joe (with heavy bike syndrome) and Geraldine (with à strained back), Bridget (with a case of first ride of the year) and Glyn (with a ski related injury) and Jen (who thought her legs would not pedal) all sped off towards Bishop Monkton. Sue and Monica (who must have been feeling very weedy) and Caroline (who is always weedy) slunk slowly along at a respectable distance passing a field full of alpaccas, eventually reached Markington. After scaling the hill towards the Drovers, where Glyn was interviewing the site manager, we reached Ripley cafe where we were greeted with a sulky waitress and an escapee from the E.G.s who was pretending he was cycling but

in fact reading the paper.

We had after sometime a good cup of coffee etc, some excellent chatting..we returned to Harrogate, seeing en route some remarkable sun scenes, via the Greenway.....glorious. Thank you all, I had a lovely ride....hope it was not too tedious for the rest of you, but hope you all recover to full throttle as soon as possible.....26 miles, 12,342 paces, 54 floors. CG.



Wanderers Wanderers Ride

The promise of the sun and a dry day saw a large gathering at Hornbeam but a comfortable group of just 9 riders opted for the Wanderers route. Some frost still about as we headed carefully down past the showground. At the end of Rudding Lane having been cautious about the frost, I managed to take a tumble leaving the lane for the short path to the by-pass. Did I catch the kerb because the low sun was in my eyes or was it the equally dazzling sight of Max 20 yards ahead waiting to join us? Man and machine undamaged but leaders pride somewhat dented the now 10 of us continued on our way to Spofforth. A couple of weeks ago the Harland Way was reported to be very muddy but it had dried out nicely, as had the cycle track to Thorpe Arch where Liz, Dennis and Keith left us for an early return via Boston Spa. We arrived at the Bistro Café at Thorpe Arch before 11.30 which entitled us to a discount. An unexpected (and I have to admit, unplanned) bonus. No sign of the notorious Vale of York fog as we cycled along Rudgate lane, just blue sky and lots of it, horizon to horizon. Max left us to continue up Rudgate as we turned right to loop around the old

airfield and through Tockwith. On through Cowthorpe to Little Ribston where the group divided again, some turning towards Spofforth and the remaining 4 continuing to Knaresborough.

The one mishap was more than compensated for by the sunshine, café discount and most of all friendly company. Thanks Steve for back marking a very well ordered group. 33 miles.
Dave G

Long Ride

The Long Ride was a bit thin on the ground today with only 3 riders prepared take on the frost and fog. Head west was the strategy away from the foggy bit of Harrogate. After only a couple of miles the skies cleared, the sun came out and everyone was happy. Ilkley was the destination which was reached by going via Little Almscliffe, Norwood Edge, Otley and Askwith. Christchurch church provided the refreshments in Ilkley. Decisions, decisions which way back? We decided and tackling the Cow and Calf climb and then a meander through Burley-in-Wharfedale to arrive in Otley. It was too early to go home so an assault on The Chevin was suggested. We then headed home via Castley and Dunkeswick. Thanks for the interesting conversation that included position of feet, ankles and use of hamstrings when pedalling uphill. Peter J





EGs Ride

Although the weather forecast was lots of sunshine it was a bit of a misty start to the day. We had fourteen riders at Low Bridge (see photo) amongst them was Roy, Roy has been unwell for some time now, so it was good to see him back (well done Roy).

It was decided to head for Easingwold as our first stop.

Unfortunately Norman had bearing problems and had to turn back before we left Abbey Road, but he knew where they were, ie in his front wheel.

Usually when EG`s have bearing problems, it is because they have lost them!!!.

The men`s downhill to Occaney was a close thing with Ian just edging out Dave Siswick.

Eric led a fast group to Boroughbridge for a quick coffee, and a breakfast for Dan.

The slower group continued on to Easingwold in sun and blue sky with a slight headwind.

Roy and Terry left us at Boroughbridge (hope the day went well for both of you).

In Easingwold the slow group ignored the Curious Table Cafe and went in to the cafe opposite, to a warm welcome and plenty of spare seats, we were soon joined by the fast group which meant a second breakfast for Dan, Dave Preston and Ian had the Triple Decker, whilst Dave Siswick caused havoc in the bean community by having Kippers?.

Then it was out of Easingwold led by a full set of Dave`s, two DP`s, two DW`s and a DS, towards Stillington, but hung a right to Huby and Sutton-on-the-Forest then down the B1363 to Wigginton and another right to Benningborough, in a favourable wind.

Here five of us lad`s left us, with six of us taking afternoon tea in Home Farm Cafe.

Then it was home, still in the sunshine and blue sky and favourable wind.

It had been a great days cycling in excellent weather for late January, it seems most of our January rides have been in good weather, but better not say too much as February is to come, often known as "February fill dyke black or white".

It had been a great day, with excellent company and a high mileage with some of our older riders now pushing big numbers, thinking how lucky they are than they still can do this, and a there are lot of people that are less fortunate than us.

This leads me on to an unpleasant end to the day.

Dave Preston, Eric and Marvin were crossing the Stray in a Beautiful Sunset admiring the view, crossing Wetherby Road was not to much of a problem, OK if you are nimble on your feet when there is a gap in the traffic.

However when about to cross Oatlands Road we noticed a blind man with a white stick on the other side.

There was a youth close by in a hoodie with something clamped to his ear ignoring him.

The traffic continued without a break, then a gap occurred enough for us to sprint across to the other side, we had Eric`s bike as he stood ready to escort the man across the road, this was going to be very difficult with the constant stream of traffic, however a van on our right saw the situation and positioned the van to effectively stop the traffic moving both ways this enabled Eric and the blind man to cross the road, he even waited till Eric had returned.

We do not know who you are Sir but you are a very considerate Gentleman.

The times we have asked the powers that be to consider some form, of controlled crossing an these roads, all to no avail, despite us telling them that this route is used by wheelchairs, mobility scooters, pushchairs and pedestrians with disabilities, they seem to regard us as selfish cyclists just wanting a crossing for our own benefit.

It was distressing to see the helplessness of the man, we can talk about situations like this arising but when you actually witness it you realise just how serious this is.

I am glad I do not talk to the "powers that be" I would be extremely impolite.

Dave P





