

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

Eleven cyclists left Hornbeam, sped towards the Ashville rendezvous and one-minute ahead of schedule were joined by Paul the 12th. After some deliberative wavering through Stainburn Forest the Lindley Bridge route provided the first real test of stamina and determination. The attempt at strong and stable leadership ceded unceremoniously to the democratic demand for refreshment at "The Local Pantry" (on the 658 not far from Pool Bridge), where the vanilla slice was particularly eye-watering and recommendable. In response to the un-costed U-turn, firm leadership was re-instated, and rapid progress made via Weeton, Huby and Armscliffe Crag. Given the beauty of the day, having surmounted the two Armscliffe's, and in order to avoid a further steep dip-and-climb, a route variation and extension via the two masts of Briscoerigg was agreed. Not all were convinced by reassurances that "this really will be the easiest route", but thankfully all followed, believers and the unbeliever alike, and all were equally rewarded by the beautiful descent via Brackenthwaite to the foothills of Harrogate. 27 miles. David A



Wednesday Ride

Started with 16, added two at Ripley, shed three at Brimham, four at Kirkby Malzeard. Eleven for lunch in Masham shed four to go to Ripon via Snape, one to follow six who went via West Tanfield. At Ripon nine returned via Bishop Monkton and Greenway and two via the Deer Park and Greenway. Nearly 60 miles of glorious cycling, great company and plenty of options for shorter distances.

We set out with a rough plan to cycle to Brimham via the Greenway and to agree as we went along how far we wanted to cycle. Masham was an attractive proposition as it was such a fine day which got better and better. Martin, Yvonne and Stuart went to the café at Brimham. The views from Brimham and Dallow Moor are superb in these conditions and having made the climbs of the day bowled along nicely to Kirkby Malzeard where Richard, Lesley, John and Sue cycled directly to Ripon.

The rest of us passed through Grewelthorpe and Hackfall Woods to Masham. A direction many of us have not done for a long time.

We all sat outside at the two cafes in the square enjoying a leisurely lunch. Kevin, Jill, Liz and Steve set off for an extra loop via Snape with a promise to meet at Spa Gardens for tea.

James, Angela, Janet, Sarah, Charlie and Gia headed for West Tanfield and the wonderful ride along the river Ure. Malcolm following on with a diversion to Nosterfield Nature Reserve. Spa Gardens was busy we enjoyed tea and ice cream and watched a large group of men and women playing bowls. Our final assessment was that it was flat green bowls.

Here the final split of the group happened and we all made our way home to Harrogate after a wonderful day of cycling. Hard to beat, many thanks for everyone's help on directions. Gia





Wednesday Long Ride

It was a day when superlatives would soon be exhausted. Luckily, the legs of the six riders who left Hornbeam in a hurry would take a little longer to reach the same state. As the sunshine built up and a gentle breeze proved helpful, few could remember a more benign ascent to Duck Street – just reward for the harder grinds we'd all experienced in the past. Stump Cross provided the first of three cafe stops (photo), setting us up for the long descent to Burnsall where Richard L took his leave via Bolton Abbey. Half term crowds were much in evidence from Burnsall onwards and it was clear that care and patience was needed on all

sides. Fortunately the route through Thorpe was reasonably traffic-free, but our progress was halted by the siren-screach of a peacock who was doing his bit in warning the village of strangers. Photos taken, our lunch stop was in the farm shop cafe, whose good reputation is well-deserved. While there, Peter managed to get a long shot of Malham Cove (photo) which goes some way to capturing the glory of the limestone landscape on view throughout the day. We chatted to a Derbyshire tandem couple at the cafe, who had successively modified their 15 year old machine to suit changing needs as years have advanced. It now sported electric assistance which they claimed gave them a range of 80 miles before a recharge, taking advantage of regenerative braking - all good pointers to an extended riding career. Lunch over, it was back into the crowds at Malham – fields full of cars, streets a-bustle with family groups seeking out exotic animals in the Malham Safari. As our photo shows, we couldn't resist joining in the fun. Fun over, next came the serious business of climbing up to Street Gate for views of Malham Tarn shimmering as the heat increased. The road to Arncliffe sported immaculate new tarmac which was a joy to ride on; sadly we had to share it with rather a lot of cars, also out enjoying the smooth ride. The Brootes Lane climb lived up to its name giving Richard P a messy time untangling his chain after a drop to the small ring went horribly wrong. After that, it was the glorious downhill to Arncliffe for a photo and beyond to Grassington for a third cafe stop, featuring cream teas and the perpetual debate as to whether to have a Devon or a Cornish. Opting for Appletreewick rather than Dibbles Bridge, we retraced the morning's route to Stump Cross and Duck Street, saying our goodbyes at Menwith, Killinghall and Bilton respectively. A day to linger in the memory. Terry Smith







EGs' Ride

A beautiful day and forecast ideal for the crack eleven we had waiting to be away, one of our leaders however could not make it (best wishes to Dave Watson and Pamela).

Coffee choice was Tadcaster or Wetherby, Wetherby said Peter B, and so it was up Blands Hill/Thistle Hill to the A658 crossing which was somewhat busy today, crossing the A661 to Follifoot, Spofforth and Morrisons Wetherby.

The fast group were already there tucking in (see photo) below a sign that said everything "SWEET" ??, surely not applicable to EG`s.

The slower (and older) group (see photo) Theo, Roy and Dave P were enthralled by Theo`s tales of the 1172cc side valve IC engine, what and how things were taken off, made good, and put back again, again like an EG.

His garage could be classed as an industrial museum, with taking off tools and putting on tools, he probably has the odd tool to fettle up Locomotion or Rocket.

Then it was roll call and the main group headed for Kirkby Overblow and the ridge, Theo and Roy headed for Spofforth (did they have a second cuppa ?), good to see you out Theo, we did not hear you blow a gasket or snap a piston ring so you must have done good.

At Kearby with Netherby a group photo was taken with Wharfedale in all its glory behind us. Dave P made a phone call (sort of like EG phone home) and had to leave the party.

A perfect day for up t`dale, no doubt Eric or somebody can take up the tale from there.

Dave P.





Wheel Easy Abroad

45 miles of cycling near Perpignan on lovely cycle tracks. Jen Appleyard

