

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Not many cyclists at Hornbeam today there must be an away day. So, with three Poddlers away I expected a lone ride to where ever I ended up.

Jean and Bridget however were raring to go anywhere so we set off to Boroughbridge...meeting Dave P and the E.G s at Low Bridge, observing some motorway observers swaddled under layers of blankets on the bridge counting cars, misbehaving through the Dunsfords and finally arriving at Vintage Bean for a truly yummy scone apiece and a couple of teas for tea ceremony. We set off home after a good gossip, via Staveley and arrived home painlessly with 31 miles of exercise under our belts, ready for an afternoon of activities... a pleasant morning's work. CG



Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

Depleted numbers today due to the popularity of the awayday rides. We had no allocated leader but Steven stepped up to the mark and led a comfortable number of 8 wanderers away towards Wetherby via Kirkby Overblow. Max was out on his bike for the first time for several weeks and opted to leave us at Wetherby for a shortened ride. As befits our name it was then a case of making it up as we went along. Next stop was the Bistro Café at Thorpe Arch for coffee. Refreshed, we continued along Rudgate. We then said goodbye to Peter who carried on towards Cattal and the remaining 6 turned left towards Cowthorpe. At North Deighton Steven and Alan carried on towards Knaresborough whilst the remaining 4 of us returned via Spofforth. 34 miles. Dave Griffin.

Awayday Ride - Kevin's Group

Some of us had a great start to the day with excellent coffee and pastries at Porter's in Helmsley. This was especially calming for me as coming up Sutton Bank in the van came

upon a heavily laden lorry almost at a standstill, but we had enough room and power to get by but it was rather tense!

As usual there was a great response to another away day this time organised by Richard Leake. Sadly Colin couldn't make it to ride his off road bit, we hope you are fit and well very soon, Colin.

Eric led the off road group, Richard a briskest group, Keith and Helen an ecclesiastical group and together the rest of us with enough maps, instructions and Garmin's wandered off and pretty much wandered all day, enjoying the scenery and the villages.

Unfortunately Kevin whose day started off badly by forgetting his helmet and there was no Colin bandana to be seen anywhere, then just at the start of a downhill stretch a loud bang saw his tyre explode and that was it for the day. The electric man Malcolm came to his rescue he scooted back to Helmsley to collect the van and then pick up Kevin. There were no helmets or tyres to be had so sadly Kevin returned home to sort out his bike. Malcolm appeared like magic just as we arrived in to Hutton le Hole to advise us on the cafe which was a great choice. We had a great welcome and good food and drinks.

We were all ready for our food as we had completed most of the climbs of the day through glorious quiet roads banked with heather or through woodland and streams. Bransdale is well worth a visit especially on a bike.

The ride back was much flatter and we were soon back in Helmsley to meet Malcolm who had managed to divert himself to Kirby Misperton to support the anti frackers!

Great ride, thank you Richard for the route and to Julie, James and Ian for map guidance.

These awaydays have been brilliant and thanks to everyone who has supported them and to all the organisers and leaders, Gia

















Awayday Ride - Keith's Group

There was a large gathering for the last of the magnificent Away Days in this summer's season. Keith was nominated as a leader, having admitted to owning a Garmin and a map and having a bit of local knowledge. Eight unsuspecting riders followed him out of the car park as we left Helmsley and settled in to the first hill towards Bransdale.

Our first minor detour was to a known viewpoint at Cowhouse Bank and we all dutifully gazed into the fog filled abyss. I bet it's nice on a sunny day! We continued on our way via a couple of closed gates, still uphill, until we were instructed to take an unscheduled left turn up a seriously steep, but mercifully short, hill to St Nicholas' Church at Cockayne. This is a delightful, secluded spot with nice benches for a picnic (if you happened to have any sandwiches with you) and gave a full view all the way down Bransdale to Helmsley – on a fair day. At this point the sun did start to make valiant attempts to come out and we began to appreciate the beauty of the North York Moors. We then turned around at this, the furthest reach, of our horseshoe loop and sort of back-tracked to Gillamoor before descending in to Hutton le Hole for lunch. The cafe was good and efficient and we bumped into Malcolm who told us that Kevin had had to abandon the day, due to a blow-out. We took this to mean that he had gone for the starter, main course AND the pudding but, on closer listening, it transpired that this had more to do with a frayed tyre and exploding inner tube. Bit of a swizz for Kevin, having to miss the last away day but it was such a good ride, nobody would have any objection to doing it again, with a full complement of Kevin's and Colin's!

Refreshed, we continued to Lastingham and were tempted in to the Parish Church of St Mary, being assured there was a magnificent crypt that one could visit for free. It was indeed most interesting and the crypt remains, to this day, a focus for the veneration of Cedd.

Finally, we had Appleton le Moors in our sights and soon were crossing the Scarborough Road to the much anticipated "flatter" section of the ride. Our final detour was to the

attractive pond in Harome for a photo shoot opposite the Michelin starred restaurant The Pheasant Inn before finally rolling in to Helmsley. A fine end to a spectacularly good day in enervating company and many thanks to Richard Leake for devising the route. Helen T







Awayday Ride – Richard’s Report

Just under 30 riders arrived at Helmsley for two away day rides. Four took on Colin's partly off road ride, sadly not including Colin, who had had a mishap the previous evening resulting in a hospital visit.

The remainder set off in three groups up Bransdale in overcast conditions, with low cloud obscuring the best views. However, the sun made faltering attempts to break through and the clouds did eventually lift at least enough to show the scenic potential of Bransdale, if not its full glory. Unfortunately, the other prime mover of WE away days, Kevin, got only a few miles into the ride before his rear tyre exploded in dramatic fashion. Malcolm kindly returned to Helmsley, collected his rescue vehicle and returned Kevin to Helmsley and home. Lunch was taken at Hutton-le-Hole in various eateries, before the return via Lastingham (Spaunton for some), Appleton le Moors, Great Edstone and Harome, a much flatter second half.

The ride was an unplanned treat for church aficionados, with one group visiting both the historic church at Cockayne and the crypt at Lastingham. For nature lovers, there was no shortage of game birds, including a few near misses, and several varieties of sheep (all equally stupid), but no sign of the recently-released hen harriers at the top of Bransdale. 37 miles, 3000ish feet of climbing. RL

Awayday Ride – Colin’s Off Road Ride

There were just two small problems with Colin's off-road ride: (1) there was no Colin, (2) there was no off-road! Well OK, there were 2.5 miles off-road out of our 31 miles - we'll return to that later. The more important issue was that Colin, having carefully planned and ridden the route in advance, he had less carefully dropped something onto his foot, and spent the previous night in Harrogate A&E. Thankfully x-rays confirmed nothing was broken, but Colin was in no fit state to ride his bike, or even walk. We wish Colin a very speedy recovery.

So with depleted numbers, just David R, Vanessa and Eric set off from Helmsley, passing through Harome and Wombleton on our way to Kirkbymoorside. Between the 3 of us, we had a road bike, a mountain bike, and a gravel bike. So, what's a gravel bike? How does it differ from a cyclo-cross bike? Why would anybody have both? All of these seemed very important questions to David and myself as we don't own either - but don't ask Vanessa, or you'll be getting right on certain parts of her anatomy!

In Kirkbymoorside we met up with Terry (on his touring bike), who had taken the train to Malton and cycled from there. By then, we'd been cycling for nearly 45 minutes - so to this EG - it was time for a coffee stop. Poor Terry had to go back into the same café he'd been in for the last hour! However, their special offer of coffee and giant crumpet for £2.50 was well appreciated. Suitably refreshed we started the undulating part of the day, up Farndale to Hutton le Hole and on to Church Houses, where we stopped for our lunch at The Daffy Café. Well, we'd now been cycling for another 45 minutes, so to this EG, it was certainly time for lunch. An hour later we were on the hilly bit of the ride, starting with a climb out of Church Houses with a sign warning us of the 25% gradient. No sooner had we finished that climb, then the off-road bit started. It was challenging up the very steep, deeply rutted track. We all tried to cycle up it, with varying degrees of success on our 4 different types of bikes, but we all had to admit defeat and walk at times. Once the main climb was out of the way, we could enjoy the bridleway across the top of the moors followed by the descent into Bransdale. It might have been only 2.5 miles off-road, but as the photos show, it was quite magnificent!

We then entered the cultural and ecclesiastic bit of the ride. Shortly after Cockayne we visited the isolated historic church of St Nicholas, Bransdale, and then a few miles later we visited "Vanessa's church". I kid you not! Vanessa has a part owner of St Aidan's Church, Carlton, which is now beautifully and sympathetically converted into a holiday cottage - as can be seen in the photo - together with its neighbourhood brood of ducklings. We arrived back in Helmsley at 3.30, which for any EG must be time for an afternoon cream tea before driving home. 31 miles, 3,000' climbing and 2.5 miles off-road in magnificent scenery. A great day out, thank you Colin, and also my fellow riders! Eric







Wednesday Long Ride

Not perhaps one of the longest in the series; but plenty of mystery! Fountains had been declared as final destination, and as we rode off past Ashfield, Masham was mentioned as

possible. Soon it became clear that 2 out of the 3 were wanting a shortish long ride, so Kettlesing was substituted; and it is true we did get close, but the ride turned into a 'double Birstwith tour!' High Birstwith was reached by crossing the main Skipton road via Burley Bank Road and then taking one of Richard's 'nicely tarmacked' (and in fact, delightful) detours along West Lane, and down towards Hampsthwaite. Then it was off up the hill to Clapham Green before the long haul to High Birstwith. This took us towards the 'golf balls' of Menwith before we lost most of the height gained, turning right near North Pole farm and down the most scenic descent of the day. We were then on the edge of Darley, and turned right along by the riverside. With a certain element of deja vu at the outskirts of Birstwith, we turned left into Birstwith village, and headed up Clint Bank until we could take the right towards Hampsthwaite and Ripley. In the end Ripley won and so we found another piece of 'nicely tarmacked surface' along Hollybank lane to All Saints church and a welcome coffee. Here we found a couple of Aussies with bikes so laden with panniers we could hardly see any bikes. It was a couple on a world tour: 3 years out, and still with a year or so to go! The greenway brought us safely back with half the day remaining. Thanks go to Darcy for keeping the pace from dropping too much, and to Richard for such a clear sense of direction! Stewart

EGs' Ride

We had nine riders at Low Bridge including Roy, who had missed a few Wednesdays (welcome back Roy). The destination was to be Easingwold, but first a team photo near Gibbet Hill (see photo), the notice "reads", or should do Seasoned Hard OGS, the OGS of course stands for "Old Gents Smiling". As Frankie Howard used to say "please yourself". The men's downhill to Occaney was next, Dave (wonder wheels) Siswick was missing, initial favourites Dave Wilson, Colin or Dave Watson in the lightweight division, however despite Colin's professional position (he had seen it on TV), the honours went to Geoff. Bill and Norman left us at Boroughbridge for Morrison's Cafe. Here the seven riders split in to two groups, Dave P and Roy were to head directly to Easingwold at a leisurely pace to get the miles in. Dave Watson led the second group to Easingwold at a faster pace and to get even more miles in took a few diversions.

This worked brilliantly with our paths crossing twice on the way there, with Dave's team getting to the cafe in the square minutes before we did. This meant we were all together to enjoy each other's company and the good grub.

Then Dave Watson took his team back (hope to hear from you Dave). Dave P and Roy returned at the same steady pace via Aldwark Bridge. We could have returned via Boroughbridge and Morrison's Cafe but it was decided to take afternoon refreshment in Knaresborough. One might ask "why bother" when you are so near to home, but for us Harlow Hill Billies it is five miles of climbing before home.

So, it was in to the Black Dahlia? cafe for coffee and one of the nicest flapjacks we had tasted for some time, made better by the cyclists' discount. They had two notices in the cafe, they welcomed cyclists and well-behaved dogs, or was it that way round?

Then for the elderly two it was up the Beryl Burton and on to Harlow Hill steady away.

Roy made it home with 51 miles in his wheels, (welcome back Roy it's like you have never been away) none of us were exhausted but chuffed to get the miles in.

Although we did not travel to exotic places this had been a brilliant ride. It was a perfect example of how the fit and fast and the less fit and more elderly can cycle to a destination and meet and socialise together, for Wheel Easy, and most all cycling clubs this is a major objective.

A big thank you to you Dave Watson you made it for us. Dave P.

EGs' Ride - Supplemental

After parting company with Norman & Bill at Boroughbridge, and despatched by our "leader" with a request to continue with the faster lads to Easingwold a suggestion was put forward

that we seek out an additional loop to extend the ride before reaching our destination for lunch.

Using the built in navigational device (no not Garmin this time) but "memory map" (brain), we five aimed north for Norton-Le-Clay & Cundall pulled along at a good pace by Colin.

Turning south we soon swept over Thornton Bridge up the following rise to see Dave P & Roy already in our sights as they entered Brafferton.

With a friendly call we passed on by, shouting our intent to add on yet another loop and see them both for lunch later!

Heading to the right at the tee junction through the village, Geoff took over the lead pushing the wind towards Flawith with a view to swinging off left through Tholthorpe and onwards to Raskelf.

Our pace was such we once again soon caught sight, in the distance, of Dave & Roy busily chatting between themselves as we hurriedly passed them by a mile before Easingwold.

We parked our bikes against the Town Hall next the local market and settled down for lunch at "Tee Hee's" cafe just as Dave and Roy arrived.

The weather had continued to warm up and so we were able to gather outside to enjoy our usual bikers fare. The sun blessed our faces for a while encouraging a leisurely meal.

Appetites satisfied the famous five headed off to leave Dave & Roy to aim onwards to Aldwark and home hoping we would yet again catch sight of them on our return home.

We circulated around Huby crossing the A19 at "Cross Lanes" towards Tollerton..

Turning west we took in yet another diversions near Flawith turning 2nd left for Aldwark.

With a little wind in our face the group continued to maintain a good pace as we drove on to Aldwark bridge.

A refreshment stop was called for at Branston Green hoping that Dave & Roy would appear over the horizon. Regrettably there was no sign after a quarter of an hour so we had to press for home.

Legs were beginning to weary at this stage but thanks to Dan our deputy leader was able to more or less keep up with the "fray". (Thanks Dan).

Colin and Dave Wilson left us at Sandybank heading off through Scotton on their respective ways home whilst the remaining three aimed for Knaresborough once again getting trapped in the road works at the roundabout next the new housing estate behind Piccadilly Car Showrooms.

Thanks Dave for pointing us in the right direction. Sorry we missed you upon our return but I think we all had a great ride. Well done to Roy who managed to equal the faster boys mileage of 51 miles albeit ours was Low Bridge to Low Bridge. Dave Watson.



