

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Wheel Easy Ride Report 616

Short Ride

15 of us set out in glorious spring sunshine for a 20 mile ride to Wetherby via Knaresborough, Little Ribston, and back on the cycle path to Spofforth, Follifoot and home. We had a new member, Alan who had come all the way from near Skipton to join us. He had come across some Wheel Easy members cycling on the cycleway near Harrogate and getting into a conversation with them found them to be such a "friendly" bunch that he wanted to join us. Think he enjoyed his first Wheel Easy ride and we look forward to seeing him again soon!

On arriving at our first stop by the river in Knaresborough we were 6 riders short and my obituary was already being written "6 riders lost in first 10 minutes etc". Eventually after a few heart stopping moments (10 mins) to be precise they turned up having taken according to Jill "the scenic" route in error!!

The rest of the ride passed without incident except for the fact it seemed to break up into 2 groups of men and ladies only although Caroline slightly redressed the balance by staying with the men..!! Brave lady.

An excellent cafe stop in Wetherby sitting out in the sun was a memorable feature. David S





Medium Ride

The morning was sunny and spring-like (despite an early morning frost). There were 12 takers for the Medium ride, including 2 new/returning members, Jane and Barbara. Everyone was happy to do the route the other way round from that advertised. [It gave us a later café stop once the majority of the hills were climbed] At the top of Hollybank woods, Jane's bike required some 'tweaking' of gears. In true Wheel Easy tradition there were several volunteers to help. Dave P was tempted by coffee and a bacon sandwich at Sophie's so set off down Clint Bank. The rest of us split into 2 groups. A group of 4 set off first while the rest of us proceeded at a more leisurely pace. Jane continued to have trouble with her gears so we were fortunate to have Mechanic Glynn with us. As usual, he was able to rapidly fix things. At Hartwith, Malcolm caught us up and then sped off to catch up with Gia's group. It was a beautiful ride up to Brimham and beyond. Views of Dallowgill gave us a hint of future rides. As usual, G&T's provided good refreshments. Gia's group were discussing a route home- hope you enjoyed it whichever way you went. Glynn departed to rendezvous with Jen. We rode back through Sawley admiring the glimpses of Fountains. At Watergate Lane, a major disaster for Jane. Her gear mechanism collapsed, breaking a spoke in the process. So, there was no choice for her but to 'ring home'. Fortunately, she was able to get a lift, so we said our good-byes and continued a pleasant, sunny ride back to Ripley. Here, Geraldine and Joe caught us up after their later start. The Greenway was busy, but we negotiated our way back to Harrogate after having enjoyed the beautiful Nidderdale scenery in sunshine. Alison N

Thanks Alison for great route change to go other way round. Glorious views, wonderful weather and after a cafe stop at GT's, Martin, Malcolm, Monica, Paul and Gia conspired to make a second cafe stop at Sophie's.

It was so busy inside we sat in the garden and the extra loop gave us an excellent spring ride of 38 miles. Gia



Medium Plus Ride (Julie's Group)

Seven slightly faster Medium-Plussers set off in the sunshine collecting one more at Low Bridge and speeding off along the prescribed route. A couple of miles before Easingwold we overtook the slower group (!) and pedalled on to Coxwold admiring the views of the White Horse along the way. We stopped at the café in Coxwold where we enjoyed delicious cheese scones and cranberry teacakes (highly recommended) and managed to spend nearly an hour sunning ourselves in the garden.

We set off again for the route home leaving Martin in Boroughbridge, as he had cycled in to Harrogate earlier. We managed to overtake the slower group (!) a second time as we approached Knaresborough, dropped Mike in Scriven and Pete in Knaresborough and made our final ascent for the day up Knaresborough Hill.

Probably the best cycling day weather-wise this year - no LTIs (except for an unscheduled stop to remove a layer of clothing). 54 miles, 15 mph. Julie E.

Medium Plus Ride (Sue's Group)

The best day of the year so far weather wise, sunny and warm. 7 ladies and 5 gents in the third tier of speediness set off towards Easingwold via Knaresborough. An uneventful trip to the Curious Table cafe, good timing to replace the group who were medium faster. The Miraculous Memory waitress took a large table of orders with not a notepad in sight and no errors. This has got to be one of the very best cafes. James led us out of Easingwold on the route, one that few of the group were familiar with, always a bonus. This was a classic Spring day and enjoyed by all after the grim winter weather of past weeks. Photo opportunity in Husthwaite beside daffodils and in the background a blanket of celandine or Swallowwort, thought to be so called because it blooms when the swallows return in spring! Home again via Boroughbridge and into a stiff wind all feeling rather weary on the longest ride for many this year. 52 sunny miles, thanks to James for guidance and Justin for back marking and to all for pleasant company Sue C



Medium Plus Ride (Dave's Group)

Seven of us went off from Hornbeam into the superb Spring morning on a slightly faster ride. Good progress was made because, half an hour out, we were passed by the fast boys, who had left before us!! We didn't share the secret with them. of how we had done that. Easingwold was gained without incident and an excellent repas was consumed at the Curious Table, whose portions of beans surpassed all known examples, possibly as a result of my heartfelt plea for "more beans" last year. Sue's team arrived as we were leaving, and pleasantries were exchanged before we hit the road again. The pace was quite hot but good riding teamwork was evident. We were passed again by the fast boys!! Ascent of Knaresborough Hill was achieved without too much pain, and the ride ended with the usual fragmentation as riders peeled off the route for home. Yet another first class day out. Thanks to Two Helens (Small and Tall), two Daves, (W and S), Justin, Janet and Mick. What could we have done better than that? Let's hope we can repeat it next week. Dave S.



Long Ride

Six riders left Hornbeam for Littondale in glorious sunshine and with no ice around for a change. The plan was to get the headwind out of the way first, and enjoy the tailwind on the return leg. And so it turned out. Progress up Duck Street was about as good as it gets and after a few rapid descents we found Peter and Phil waiting at Cobblestones to make us a group of eight. In due course we rode up and returned down Littondale which was very pretty in the spring sunshine. We had a second cafe stop at Stump Cross and then a fast run home. Some good and bad highlights of the ride:

- After some talk about where a distant track went to, and about the problem trying to get to see the view from the top of the hill, Glyn's comment about being browbeaten!
- The definitive calls of curlews and peewits.
- The footpath sign on the photo and the other side is the same!
- Trev's rear mudguard which came loose in Littondale and was refixed by the trusty cable ties.
- The too busy roads, probably because it was the first decent weekend for a while.
- Cobblestones lower customer service where you have to go to the counter and pay, rather than wait at your table. And their slow delivery of the order.
- The poor state of Penny Pot Lane which I'll avoid when I'm next leading. John H





