

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Six Poddlers set off across the Stray and down the Greenway, mixing it with the Wanderers. At the traffic lights we collected Jane and continued through Ripley and up towards the Drovers. Two Poddlers turned left here(on purpose), while the rest of us turned right and sped on to Markington.

We finally arrived at Bishop Monkton after dicing with death crossing the busy main A61. We followed the undulating road to Fanham, then it was right turn to Scotton and Nidd, finally arriving at the ever-delightful Ripley church for our coffee and cakes etc.

Topics of conversation were, as ever, varied, from Ripon races to Marks and Spencer's underwear. Bridget zoomed off on her own down the Greenway, hoping not to be in trouble for arriving home late. We said goodbye to Jane, and the three of us poddled back down the Greenway. It was good to be back riding with Wheeleasy again after a long holiday. 30 miles in delightful weather on Yorkshire day. Jen A



Wanderers' Ride

There were sixteen happy Wanderers at Hornbeam today, however Joe and Geraldine had forgotten their water so dashed home and with superb timing met the rest of the group at the top of Claro Road. A couple of other waifs' and strays J joined us on the Green Way on the way to Ripley.

Splitting up for the short ride on the A61 then through Nidd and into the Mount Garrat Estate. Although the ford was low nobody attempted to cross, everybody preferring the bridge. Glyn was very chivalrous in helping the ladies with their bikes – am I able say that in this pc world!

Conditions were perfect, with the hint of a tail wind, so we were through Copgrove and Staveley in no time. Coming in to Arkendale it was suggested that as it was the first Wednesday of the month and before 12:30 we could get a drink or tea/coffee and a cake for £1, so it was decided to make a short impromptu stop. We quickly ate all the cakes and biscuits that were on offer before heading off for the scheduled stop at Tancred where lots of bacon butties and other delicious food was consumed.

Due to the size of the group we spent nearly an hour at the café in the company of quite a few wasps. Unfortunately one decided to have a go at David but he managed to catch it just before it had finished and pull the sting out.

The home leg was via Whixley, Walshford, Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot. Peter took us under the bypass via the official cycle route, however it was rather muddy and uneven so we won't be trying again. Onto the Show ground and up the hill, it never gets any easier. 39 miles... a bit more than advertised but well worth the effort. Michael S





Wednesday Ride

Many thanks to those who joined us for today's ride which had plenty of climbs, runs along fabulously quiet lanes for many miles and we were never more than about fifteen miles from Harrogate.

It was a first for a few and included a walk to the very pretty pack horse bridge at Dob Park. Here we indulged Colin for a bit of off road as he happily cycled down the steep road to the old ford and pack horse bridge and then he happily cycled back up it. Part of this route is an early Wheel Easy route called the seven bridges ride.

The route is Stainburn Woods, on to the Norwood Road, turn left, then first right towards Jack Hill Lane. The views across towards our usual route up to Timble on the other side of the valley are spectacular.

Today we had views of the reservoirs, leafy lanes, no traffic some steep descents and some climbs. We exited Dob Park, climbed back towards Norwood but before the really steep bit

turned right towards the gated road towards Lindley and then on to Leathley and Pool Pantry for our first cafe stop.

Here Paul left for a special appointment, Malcolm joined us and we took the Castley route towards Dunkeswick and at the Kearby turn lost Stewart and Jen to return via Kirkby Overblow. After Kearby Steve and Malcolm returned to Kirkby Overblow and the remaining seven cycled on to Wetherby for our second cafe stop of the day. The service at North Street Deli was outstanding in stark contrast to the service at Pool Pantry. And they have teapots and hot water that would satisfy Angela.

James and Kevin returned to Knarsborough via Little Ribston and the remaining five cycled along the Harland Way, Spofforth, Follifoot and Showground.

It was just like an away day. Two cafe stops and 42 miles. Gia M











EGs' Ride

They say it pays to advertise (well done Dave S) what a great turnout we had at Low Bridge around eighteen/nineteen riders.

Just to repeat the main message, perhaps for the newer members of Wheel Easy, the EG`s or VEG`s are still part of Wheel Easy, so if any rider misses the 9.30am start from Hornbeam Car Park get yourself down to to Low Bridge for the 10am start.

The first cafe stop was the Lemon Tree in Tadcaster, the riders set off and being all experienced riders getting in to groups was no problem, the groups formed naturally, were formed in a manner to suit the requirement of its riders.

The most leisurely of the groups consisted of Andrew (up from Lincolnshire), Charlie, Dave P, John R, Jeanie, Peter B and Sue C.

All the groups met in the cafe, then Eric arrived just in time to catch up with his group just before they departed, so no toasted teacakes for Eric.

Our leisurely group then continued to Selby, Dave P was most pleased to see Sue on this ride as a few years ago they had both ridden to Howden, unfortunately today he was not up to the full ride so we had a team photo outside Selby Abbey.

Dave P and Peter B headed north on the cycle track the rest of the team headed for Howden (hope your batteries held out Andrew). Our O.S Map is solar powered? Well you cannot read it in the dark! Ouch sorry.

For us, lunch was taken at Strawberry Fields (cheap and cheerful), but unlike the Beatles it wasn't forever, so it was back to York with afternoon tea taken at Askham Richard Grange cafe.

On the way in to Knaresborough we were passed by something travelling at an incredible speed, was it a bird? Was it a plane? No it was Dave S on a mission, we were most impressed Dave.

Like the Tour de France we had a summit finish, the highest part of the ride. An excellent ride with mileage in the high 70s, fortunately for us the ambient temperature was not, and I still can't get over the turnout numbers "brilliant". Dave P.

The so called fast section rode a very orderly day's ride. The only real disruption to the morning was when I couldn't find my little purse after paying the bill at the Lemon Tree. The whole café had searched everywhere to no avail when one of the lads "found" it in my hat.

Now which one of you had put it in there then....?

A brisk pace down to Howden was punctuated by Chris breaking a spoke; he fixed it and caught us up in no time at all. Great effort Chris on mechanicing and fast riding. You're in the team.

A leisurely lunch at the Cheese Shop, whose ladies coped admirably with the cafe shock, with only Geoff having to wait for his missing beans on toast. Another five bean establishment.

A bit of confused navigation saw us eventually out of Howden and on the right road; the only difficulty was keeping the (young?) bloods at the front under control.

I left the rest of the group at the Grange Coffee Shop in Askham Bryan as I had a drinking appointment to keep in Huddersfield that evening.

A great turn out and a great ride; thanks to everyone for contributing, and here's hoping we can repeat the event sometime. DaveS.



