

## Wednesday Awayday Ride- 7<sup>th</sup> September- Kirkby Stephen

Another Awayday ride-another glorious weather day as 14 cyclists arrived at Kirby Stephen for a ride in the newest addition to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

There was also a new innovation as 4 Long Ride /Climbers, led by Richard Leake(who else!) had already set off to climb up Great Dun Fell to the Observatory and then meet us on route. We set off along country lanes towards Appleby which was our coffee stop for the morning. It was an undulating start but we got great views over the Northern Pennines and High Cup Nick- too great a view as we missed a key turning to Appleby and began the long climb up to the Orton Fells. Whilst we got even greater views the possibility of no coffee could not be contemplated so we headed back towards Appleby via long downhill ride into the town just as a bus load of pensioners filled the preferred cafe (rather than cyclists I hear you mutter!). After spreading over 3 cafes and suitably refreshed we quickly viewed the area where the horse washing takes place during the Horse Fair and then set off again-now on the correct route- as we worked our way to Morland which was the turning point of the ride via some more 'undulating' (some said hilly) lanes through the lovely villages of Kings Meaburn and Maulds Meaburn.

From there we headed back up onto the Fells (a real climb this time!) for more glorious views of the Howgills and a late lunch at Orton where we met the 4 long ride boys just completing their lunch.

14 cyclists all arriving at once didn't phase the one member of staff and we were soon tucking in to our sandwiches etc and catching up on the climbing boys tales.

Having grabbed our calories we all set off together to complete the last 10 miles of the ride via Crosby Garrett and Smardale where we got great views of the Smardale Viaduct (now only used by walkers which is a real shame)

The signs kept saying Kirby Stephen one way but the route kept going another way ( which drew some comment from certain riders)as we made the most of riding on the glorious lanes with little traffic.

Eventually we had the start point in our sights and we rode into the car park after 48 miles and over 3100 feet of climbing (obviously more for the Long Ride team).

A new area explored for a lot of the cyclists today but the views and the scenery had made it worthwhile coming just that little bit further than we have done before.

Thanks again to Colin for the route (we have forgiven him for the wrong turn as it gave us even more great views-well I think we have) and to everyone who turned out today. Great company and great chat (and not too much backchat!) it made another great Awayday out.

Kevin





