

Preston Weekend Cycling Holiday

September 6th to September 10th 2018

Leader Tony Littleford with help from Neil Ross-Jones

Thursday Sept 6

Evening ride 5.00pm. 6 of us set off from Walton-le-Dale for the 16 mile opener, the weather was cloudy but no rain. Once we were away from the busy traffic and onto the cycle tracks and quiet roads it was a pleasant ride around the SW of Preston through Bamber Bridge, Longton, Hutton, Penwortham and back to Walton-le-Dale. After which some of us went to the Poachers Pub in Bamber Bridge for a quick tipple.

Friday Sept 7

10.00am start. 7 of us departed from Walton-le-Dale 23 miles north for Garstang in quite heavy rain climbing up through the city and out over the Blackpool road. Once out of the housing we travelled on cycle paths and country lanes through Fulwood, Lightfoot Green, Higher Bartle, Woodplumpton, Inskip, Great Eccleston and Nateby to arrive at Booths in Garstang for lunch. By this time the rain had almost stopped.

After a very good lunch we set off back to Preston (in reasonably dry conditions) 20 miles using quiet country roads via Bonds, Barnacre, Claughton, Bilborrow, Myerscough, Woodplumpton, Broughton and back into the north of the city. Using cycle paths and some of the Preston Guild Wheel back to Walton-le-Dale.

Evening ride. This was as Thursday but led by Neil (thank you) with just 2 participants in reasonable weather



Saturday Sept 8

10.30am start (due to our leader forgetting his GPS) 7 of us set off in high winds and torrential rain west towards Lytham St Annes 23miles. On a good day this is a pleasant flat ride along the river Ribble, through Freckleton, Warton and Saltcotes with excellent views to the south and west over the river Ribble. Unfortunately, this was not to be today as we were pedalling into a head wind and driving rain. Also punctuated by the leader getting a flat tyre 3miles from the start, but ably assisted by Ken Mullins we got back on track.

By the time we had reached the Windmill on the seafront at LSA it had stopped raining but by that time we were soaked, but surprisingly in good spirits. We continued through St Annes-On-Sea, turning north around the back of Blackpool Airport on some quiet country lanes to Lunch at Trebaron Garden Centre Cafe. This was a prearranged sandwiches and chips for all and was well received by all. Most of us partaking of cake too.

The rain had stopped when we set off on the return journey of 21 miles, so we made good headway via Mythop, Weeton, Wesham, Kirkham, Newton and Clifton to rejoin the river path back to Walton-le-Dale. Unfortunately lightning struck twice and Richard Giles punctured in the same place as the earlier one, again assisted by the others we were soon on our way

Evening Meal 8.00pm

11 of us went to The Walton Fox for the Saturday Evening and all enjoyed the varied fare served up by polite and helpful staff. A good evening was had by all.





Sunday Sept 9

10.00am start 9 of us set off from Walton-le-Dale north east in dryish weather for the 17.5 miles to Beacon Fell Country Park. The route took us north up through the city and then NE through Ribbleson, Red Scar, Grimsargh, Alston, Longridge and Chipping. Although on quiet roads this was an arduous route with some steep climbs and we all deserved our break when we arrived at Beacon Fell for lunch. When we arrived, we were presented with wonderful views to the south and southwest, but not for long, as we sat eating and drinking the rain returned.

By the time we were ready to leave the rain had abated and we were joined by Jill McNamee for the homeward (downhill) trip of 16 miles. This took us via Inglewhite, Goosnargh, Whittingham, Grimsargh and Ribbleson back to Walton-le-Dale. All was pleasant until in Ribbleson on the cycle track we met a group of young guys collected round one of the barriers, fortunately they did not give us any real trouble, but it was intimidating for the ladies. It was then Steve Whittaker's turn for a puncture, again ably assisted by Ken Mullins we were soon on our way. When we arrived, we said various goodbyes as some were leaving for home. Despite the weather the weekend was enjoyed by all.





Monday Sept 10

9.30am start 3 of us set off for a gentle ride round the Preston Guild Wheel. 24 miles in total of various tracks, lanes and shared pavements circulating clockwise around Preston. No incidents and probably the best weather all weekend.



Thank you to all who attended a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

Also thank you to the various back markers and split controllers without whom we would not be safe.

Tony