

We want to publish your local group's favourite route. Contact the editor to find out what's required (p80)



## Wheel Easy, Harrogate

Wheel Easy became the CTC local group for Harrogate just last April. It's already a great success. Martin Weeks describes a favourite club ride

**M**ore than 100 years ago Harrogate was the founding town for CTC. So it was an anomaly that in recent years the town had no formal CTC section or group. Eighteen months ago, however, local enthusiasts Malcolm and Gia Margolis formed Wheel Easy. Initially the group was intended to get people into local rides and actually boasted it was 'For people who don't wear Lycra'.

How things change! Wheel Easy was warmly welcomed into the CTC fold last April and is now Harrogate's CTC group and still proudly using its original name. The website banner now says 'Harrogate's Cycling Group for people who don't wear Lycra (and some who do)'. Speed and distance have certainly moved on.

The club has been email- and website-driven from the start and so has brought in a relatively young membership. Publicity is also key, with everyone involved doing their best to get a weekly report in the local newspaper, which also includes details of future rides.

Each Sunday morning, including the winter, at least 30 riders meet and three different rides set off. It has been a real benefit to retain a small core of people keen to lead the short and medium rides; this means a continual renewal of members is achieved and those on the short rides often quickly graduate up the scale. The long rides in the summer are typically 50 miles. The 'older hands' from CTC are gradually introducing

### FACT FILE: WHEEL EASY'S BRIMHAM ROCKS RIDE

**DISTANCE:** 48 miles **TIME:** 3.5-6 hours, depending on pace/stops **TERRAIN:** mostly minor road and beautiful country lanes **WHEN:** it's not an annual ride, just a club run favourite **MAPS:** OS 'Landranger' 104 and 99 (1:50k) **MORE INFORMATION:** email [info@wheel-easy.org](mailto:info@wheel-easy.org). uk or tel: Malcolm Margolis 01423 870333 or Dave Preston 01423 566541. **WEBSITE:** [www.wheel-easy.org.uk](http://www.wheel-easy.org.uk)

audax and CTC North Yorkshire events into the calendar.

To be based in Harrogate on the edge of the Dales and the Vale of York is a delight. Once away from the Chelsea tractors of Harrogate we have some of quietest lanes and most glorious scenery in the UK.

We meet at 9.30am (10.00am in winter) at Hornbeam Park Railway Station south of Harrogate. There is ample parking. Visitors will be given a warm welcome.

**BRIMHAM ROCKS RIDE**

This ride is a club favourite as it includes the Vale of York, the Dales villages, and the high moors above Nidderdale. It includes some long steady climbs to get the heart rate pounding and some glorious views.

From Harrogate, you head for the market town of Knaresborough and the views along the river Nidd. There is a cycle route out of Harrogate from the suburb of Bilton towards Knaresborough, which is partly hard-surfaced and is named the Beryl Burton Way – a tribute to Harrogate’s most illustrious late resident and Women’s World Champion cyclist.

Take the Boroughbridge Road (A6055) out of Knaresborough and after one mile bear left for Farnham, continuing to Copgrove, Bishop Monkton, and into Ripon. One of the club’s favourite café stops is the Spa Gardens Café and this is on the B6265, which is our route out of this small but fascinating cathedral city.

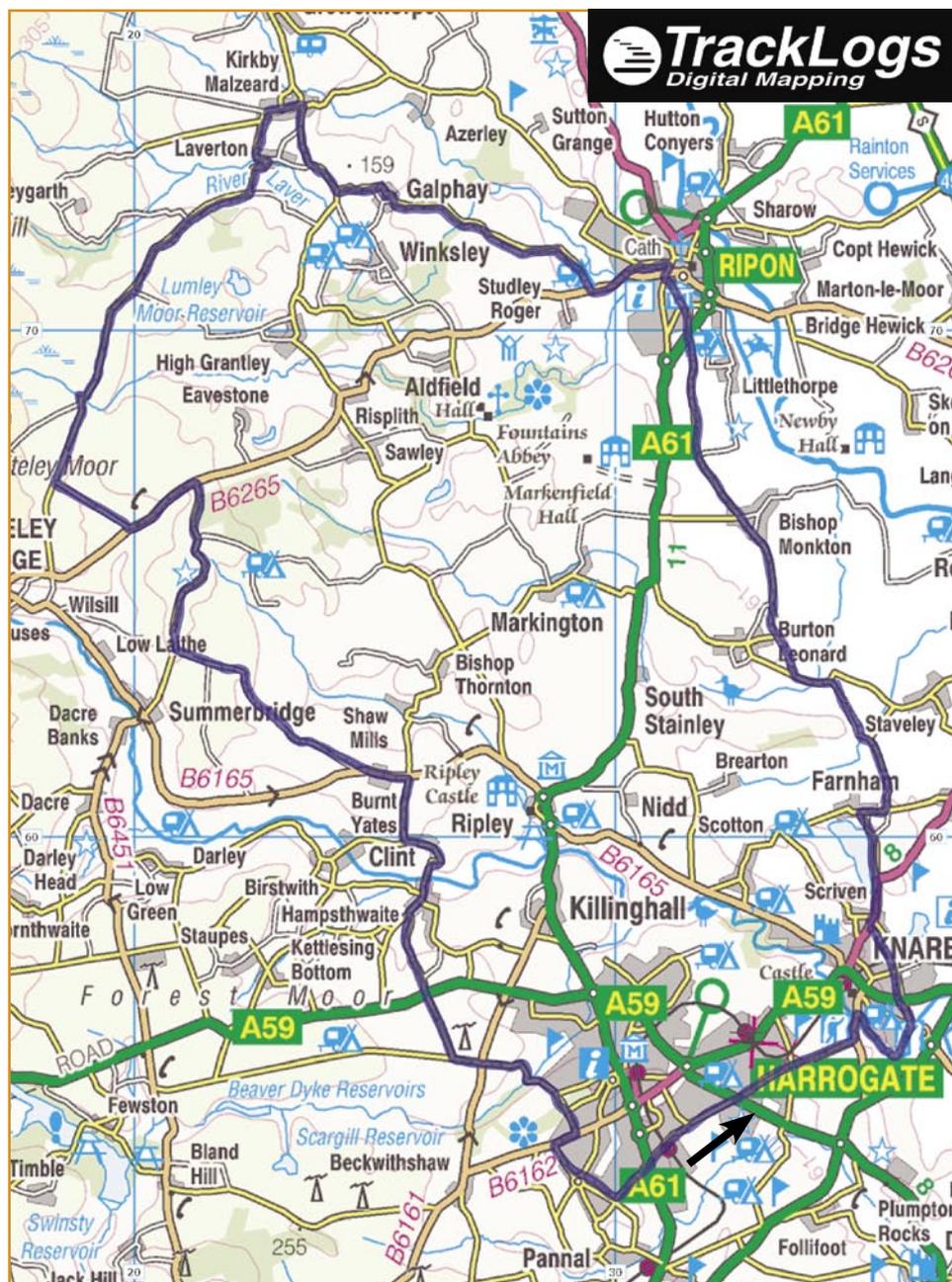
After a mile on the B6265 turn

right for Galphay and Kirkby Malzeard. Now the route climbs into the hills of the Yorkshire Dales. You leave Kirkby Malzeard heading for Laverton and take the road up onto the moors in the direction of Pateley Bridge. Just before going out onto the open moors, The Drovers Inn two miles out of Laverton is useful refreshment stop.

Continuing in the direction of Pateley Bridge over the moors, you turn left into the hamlet of Fell Beck. Then follow the signs to Brimham Rocks – a spectacular National Trust landscape of extraordinary rock formations. The NT have a tea stall at the rocks. From here you head back, mostly fast downhill, towards Harrogate through the villages of Burnt Yates and Hampthwaite.

**DIRECTIONS**

- Start Hornbeam Park Railway Station (OS 104, GR: 312538)
- Turn R at traffic lights along Hookstone Road and cont. to Knaresborough
- Cross Low Bridge (Mother Shipton PH & Half Moon PH)
- To circumvent Knaresborough, turn R to Abbey Road & follow along by River Nidd
- At T-jct w' Wetherby Road turn L
- At staggered X-rd (traffic lights) with A59, SO to Chain Lane
- Continue over staggered X-rd to Halfpenny Lane (under railway br)
- Continue to Boroughbridge Road (A6055) & turn R.
- 1 mile after Knaresborough, bear L for Farnham
- At T-jct in Farnham, turn R up hill, and then after 0.5m, L at X-rd
- After 1 mile, turn L. Follow signs to Bishop Monkton and Ripon
- Go through Bishop Monkton & follow signs to Ripon
- Go SO over Ripon bypass (care!)
- At next X-rds, SO to Southgate & follow to T-jct. Turn R & follow Low Skellgate.
- At traffic lights, go SO up hill. At next traffic lights turn L & follow signs to Spa Gardens
- Spa Gardens Café is on L leaving town centre
- Turn L from Spa Gardens & after 1m join B6265, signed Pateley Bridge
- Take B6265 for 1 mile, then R for Galphay and Kirkby Malzeard
- L in Kirkby Malzeard to Laverton. Follow signs to Pateley Bridge. At T-jct, go R
- Unfenced road over moor for 3m (Drovers PH here), then L to Fellbeck.
- L at T-jct onto B6265, signed Ripon. After 1m, R to Brimham Rocks
- After Rocks X-rd, turn L to Burnt Yates & ride 3m.
- At T, L onto B6165 (direction Harrogate). After 1m, at X-rd go R Hampthwaite
- After 1m, L to Hampthwaite
- Leave Hampthwaite south uphill & follow Rowden Lane
- Go up hill, crossing A59 at X-rds, towards Army Camp
- Left at T following Pennypot Lane and Cornwall Road back to Harrogate
- Climb to T-jct (traffic lights) with Otley Road. Turn R
- Climb for 0.5m and turn L into Beckwith Road. Follow to rndbt
- Take 2nd exit (Green Lane), continue to staggered X-rd and turn L (Leadhall Lane)
- Continue through traffic lights to Hookstone Rd
- Hornbeam Park Railway Station is 0.5m on right.



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