

Sunday, December 24, 2006

## Wheel Easy! Ride Report No. 34

---



When Wheel Easy! was launched at the beginning of May the plan was to meet every Sunday until September and then see if there were any members keen enough to carry on through the winter. How gratifying then that even with some regulars away for the festive season, 16 cyclists gathered at Hornbeam Park on Christmas Eve for our weekly ride.

We headed up Leadhall Lane to Rossett and then down into Burn Bridge before taking Hill Top Lane and Lady Lane to Beckwithshaw. Unfortunately a problem with Caroline's bike meant that she and husband Max had to abandon their ride and take a short cut home via Whinney Lane. The rest continued up Norwood Road to Stainburn Moor where we regrouped for the weekly photo.

At this point a similarly large group of cyclists emerged from the woods. Under their thick covering of mud we could just about recognise Pete Short of Psychlosport and his group of young mountain bikers who had been enjoying some of the excellent trails in Stainburn woods which we were about to make sure we would avoid - similar means of transport but otherwise a very different sport!

We followed the mainly tarmac trail through the trees until we emerged onto the B6161, going north for a short stretch and then east towards Almscliffe Crag. Here we split into two groups of 7, some returning past the Crag to North Rigton and then up the testing High Moor Road back to Harrogate. The rest of us coasted down through Huby, across the A658 and through Weeton.

Here, on a very quiet stretch of road, we came across a lady whose Mini had a punctured tyre, and her neighbour who happened to be walking past and was trying to help her find the spare wheel. Applying our full technical expertise to the problem, we eventually reached a consensus that the spare wheel was missing and that there was no alternative to calling out the emergency services.

There were no further problems as we continued to Dunkeswick, briefly up the A61 and then up the gentle hill into Kirkby Overblow which used to seem so steep and challenging - to some of us at least - back in the early days of Wheel Easy! when we were considerably less fit. Finally, Stuart headed down Walton Head Lane to return home via Burn Bridge, and the remaining small group of 3 continued along Follifoot Lane and down Drury Lane to Pannal.