

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Wheel Easy Ride Report 193



ONCE AGAIN DUE TO THE WEATHER THE PLANNED WHEEL EASY LED RIDES WERE CANCELLED

Thirteen Wheel Easy members met at Hornbeam. Dave Parker and Jean Battison very kindly led a walk on Otley Chevin and the four members who came on bikes put together a cycle route.

Mysteries of The Chevin. Undeterred by sub-zero temperatures and a further overnight dusting of snow, an intrepid group of 12 humans and three dogs gathered on the Chevin at 10.00 am. The walk set off around the Eastern side of the Chevin Forest Park on easy tracks, regularly decorated with a variety of wooden sculptures. The up-ended mountain bike with the bent wheels was straightforward enough, but no-one was able to offer a convincing explanation for the carving of a cave-man impaling a baby on a spear. Possibly a warning not to expect a man to stop at home babysitting. After descending around the northern fringe of the park we crossed back over East Chevin Road, where we were briefly entertained by a low-flying heron. From here we entered East Chevin Quarry, which is, of course, situated on the west side of the road and the north side of the Chevin. The paths from here were not only icier, but rapidly get a great deal steeper for the climb to Surprise View, and conditions in places were decidedly tricky. The summit is the highest point of land for miles around, looking down on the airport. Why anyone thought it a surprise that it has a view is also unexplained. Whilst we didn't get views as far as York Minster or Emley Moor, the weather held out nicely with just a few flakes of snow falling all the time.

We resisted the temptations offered by The Royalty, and completed a brief walk along the ridge and a circuit back along a lower path, before returning to the car park. Further exercise was had by some pushing the vehicles of more adventurous drivers back onto firm ground before dropping into The Cheerful Chilli for refreshments at 1.00 pm. David P

Ride

Report

At 9.15am the outside thermometer read -4c. It had been -7c overnight with plenty of fresh snow,

so all untreated roads were treacherous. Wearing lots of layers and therefore feeling like Michelin Man, I arrived at Hornbeam Park delighted to find 3 other hardy souls there with bikes, thus maintaining the Wheel Easy! tradition of riding every Sunday. Given the icy conditions we decided the safest course would be to go off-road as much as possible. As we passed through Harrogate, Darren decided to call it a day as his damaged hip was performing badly in the sub-zero temperatures. Malcolm Y nipped home and swapped his road bike for his cyclo-cross bike, and with Mark and Eric, the three of us proceeded along Beryl Burton Cycleway to Knaresborough. With its narrower tyres and dropped handlebars, the cyclo-cross bike was less stable than the two mountain bikes on ice, especially where the ice was rutted or covered potholes, which resulted in Malcolm having 2 falls, 1 in each direction of Beryl Burton Cycleway. Thankfully no injury was sustained. We then continued through Knaresborough to Short Hill, Hay-A-Park Lane, Manse Farm, Goldsborough, returning via Abbey Road, Waterside (for a coffee stop), and Beryl Burton Cycleway again. For the second half of the ride, the snow had stopped falling, the air was wonderfully clear and fresh, and the snow and ice crunched and crackled loudly under our tyres. What a ride! We arrived home at 12.45, having completed 21 miles, and in the meantime the outside thermometer had just climbed to freezing point. Eric W

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	70	YTD	70
------	-------	------	-------	----------	-------	----	-----	----

