

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Wheel Easy Walk Report

Seven hardy souls (how many were in Scott's party?) set out to walk from Hornbeam on a loop south of Harrogate. It was a bit of trudge at times with really deep snow, but the sun came out for us on most of the walk.

We made our way through the Showground and inspected what we could see of the new Cycleway Route exiting onto Crimple Lane. Then we followed the path by Ridding Golf Club and crossed the by-pass. At this point we discovered just how much snow was on the tree branches as it became dislodged and descended on us, mostly down our necks. John with his big walking stick knocking off the snow was the hero of the day.

After Follifoot we followed the bridleways past Plumpton Rocks and across fields to descend to Low Bridge. After six and a half miles the Waterside cafe was a good choice of stop especially as the manager turned out to be an interested cyclist. No sooner had the words "I came in on my bike" left his lips than a Wheel Easy card was in his hands. The party then split up with some of us walking back up the Beryl Burton Way while the others enjoyed the warm comforts of Northern Rail. Martin W.

Ride Report

With Max's loud testimony to my insanity ringing in my ears, I set off on the short, medium, long and off-road ride. Yes, as no other souls were venturing out on 2 wheels, I was doing all the rides today!

I took the bridleway from Hookstone Road past Oatlands Junior School, turned left to go over the railway line and past the gates of St Michael's Hospice, dropping through Crimple Valley and Hookstone Wood to the Showground. Surprisingly, passing through the Showground turned out to be the most difficult part of the journey - possibly something to do with the mix of snow and ice on top of concrete - so I had to walk large parts of the GYS roads. Then across Wetherby Road, and onto the cycle path to Sherwood Drive and Hookstone Chase. A road section followed

along Forest Moor Road, and climb up Thistle Hill, just before the bypass turning left through the gate and onto the bridleway taking me to The Lido caravan park. Along Abbey Road, Waterside (stopping for refreshments, of course), and back to Harrogate via the Beryl Burton Cycleway. Home before 1pm. 16 miles round trip, average speed 7 mph, very hard work through the deepest snow we've had for years, but worth it all for the stunning scenery as the photographs show. Eric



2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 16 YTD 86