

Sunday, November 30, 2008

## Wheel Easy Ride Report No. 136

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### Walk Report

Our first Wheel Easy Walk wasn't exactly planned but resulted from a number of circumstances that made it a good option for the day. Despite extremely cold conditions more than 20 people turned out at Hornbeam this Sunday, and only four opted for the walk despite the white frost and slippery roads.

So the pioneering four - Peter, Barbara, Yvonne, and Martin set off on a glorious sparkling morning along the Bridleway at the bottom of Hornbeam Park, crossing over Leeds Road and on along footpaths to Pannal Village and Burn Bridge. The ground was frozen so mud was not a problem, at least not until later in the walk as we returned. Beyond Burn Bridge we climbed up onto the ridge and with super views followed the bridleway along to North Rigton and then on to Almscliffe Crag.

Sitting on the Crag having our sandwiches and coffee, and sheltered from the wind, Peter pointed out a red kite which then turned very close to us giving us a fantastic view of this magnificent bird. Then returning along to North Rigton and further along the path there were many more walkers indicating that the sleepy heads had just about made it out into the sunshine. We stuck to the same route homeward and the views were different with the Crimple Viaduct showing up bright in the distance lit up by afternoon sun.

About 10 miles covered and we all enjoyed the walk - and my feet were warm! We must do it again. Martin W

I decided not to lead the medium ride to Timble as the roads would possibly be untreated so we opted to stay low and on the flat. We all set off from Hornbeam towards Boroughbridge. However, at Knaresborough five of us left the group and opted for a slower pace ride via the quickest route. The roads were surprisingly clear and despite the cold it turned into a lovely morning. From Knaresborough we went through Ferrensby, Arkendale, Marton, Grafton, Aldborough and into Boroughbridge. The other group were already in the café and as we heard there was no space we made our way to another café for coffee and cakes.

After refreshments we made our way back to Harrogate via Roecliffe and Copgrove. The ride back was at a faster pace as Dennis's dinner was due on the table at 1pm. However, he still found time to stop and point out interesting landmarks! We covered about 32 miles averaging 11.5 mph. It was a good ride which we all enjoyed. Paul T

Meanwhile four long distance specialists covered around 65 miles to Boroughbridge, Beningbrough and York.

The four took the cycle path into York (this has recently been resurfaced) and took refreshment at the little café adjacent to Cliffords Tower. Good value and fast service. Then they returned to Harrogate via Askham Richard and Tockwith with the sun setting near Pannal (all riders having front and rear lights). One of the best winter rides this year. Dave P

