



Widespread black ice finally did what everything else - snow, rain, blizzards, storms etc. - had failed to do; it brought to an end the Wheel Easy record of four and a half unbroken years of Sunday rides. As many of us discovered, it looked quite promising from the kitchen window, a bright enough if blowy morning with a light drizzle. But once outside it was treacherous, and that shiny wet stuff on the side roads turned out to be the worst black ice many of us could remember.

We had early phone calls and texts from Alison S, Martin, Paul T, Sue C, Dave W, Caroline and Max, some of whom had tried to cycle and found it impossible. I felt I should go to Hornbeam to advise anyone who did turn up that cycling was off, at least as far as a club ride was concerned. I thought I'd be OK for the short distance on my mountain bike, but quickly discovered that our road was not only uncyclable but virtually unwalkable, except with the greatest care along the grass verges.

Once on Leadhall Lane, I was able to get on the saddle, and cycle slowly down to the start where I was astonished to see about 10 others already there. Most had driven in from a distance, including Sue and Alec, ready if necessary to lead the promised ride to Lotherton Hall, indomitable Terry from Thirsk, David S from Kirk Deighton, Glynn from Leeds and Neil from Long Marston.

We all agreed to call it a day, and most set off home, but four of us were still chatting about anything from cycle maps to cooking, when super cyclist Malcolm Y zoomed from another planet into the car park. He could scarcely believe that even the long ride regulars had been put off a good day on the bike by a bit of ice, and like a super-hero on a mission, immediately turned round and disappeared in the general direction of Otley. Howard and Neil headed to Morrisons for coffee, Peter B went for a walk, and I went home. Malcolm M

Note from 'Sur John': I did set off from my house intending to join you at Hornbeam but sadly only got

a mere 25 yds or so before sliding off on black ice and taking a tumble and decided not to go any further, dented pride and a few bruises but nothing broken fortunately, such is life. I thought the strong wind may have been an issue but it was the ice that overuled that and stopped the day, the mind was willing as they say but....John W

2011 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 0 YTD 2772