

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Wednesday Rides



Eric's Ride

With all Wednesday's *organised* rides being cancelled due to the snow and ice, in true Wheel Easy spirit I volunteered to lead a self-led ride, i.e. I announced on Tuesday night where I would be going, and duly found that a number of like-minded people accompanied me, and our numbers increased as the ride progressed. At Hornbeam, we two mountain bikers were outnumbered by 3 Poddlers on their road bikes and 10 or so walkers. 2 of the Poddlers then announced they were returning home leaving 1 Poddler - James - who decided to change allegiance so sped back home to Knaresborough to swap from road bike to mountain bike. John T and I set off through Crimple Valley, Hookstone Woods, GYS, and the former brickworks to 'The Union' at Calcutt where Dave W and Peter B were waiting. A few minutes later James arrived looking extremely hot after his very rapid change of trusty steed. The 5 of us proceeded through Birkham Woods, the Caravan Site and across the fields to Goldsborough. Although there was still plenty of snow in the fields (see photo), most of the tracks were very soft and muddy, not quite what we were expecting. We paused for hot drinks and toasted tea cakes at the Riverside Café, before parting in different directions - Dave and James staying in Knaresborough: John, Peter and Eric returning to Harrogate via Conyngham Hall & Beryl Burton Cycleway. We finished with a visit to the plaque in Crescent Gardens commemorating the founding of the CTC in Harrogate in 1878, which has been mentioned in many press articles this week covering the announcement of the 'Grande Depart' in 2014, which will bring Le Tour to Harrogate on 2 successive days - no town in France even gets that honour! What a wonderful treat we have in store. 19 miles covered today. Eric

Gia's Walk

Wheel Easy Walk/Bus/Walk/Bus/Walk. This is just to emphasise that we did plenty of walking! Great to welcome Paul B's wife, Pamela on her first Wheel Easy walk. We made good use of the 36 bus and the 24 bus to enjoy a peaceful walk through Hollybank Woods from Ripley and on through the fields to Hampsthwaite. We languished at Sophie's enjoying coffee, scones, flapjacks and teacakes until it was time to catch the bus back to Harrogate. A very enjoyable morning. Gia



Richard and Liz's Walk

For various reasons a number of us wished to remain 'local' today so met up at Hornbeam at the usual time and had a chat with the 5 cyclists. 8 of us walked up the station ramp for a change and, with a deviation via Stone Rings Lane, followed the Ringway footpath into Pannal with the exception of Caroline who decided to head straight for the pub! At Pannal we followed the road up past Daw Cross and followed the Ringway again to Lund House Green. It was a hard walk through the snow filled fields trying to avoid the worst of the muddy bog underneath so it was with relief we reached the Squinting Cat where we could rest, get warm and partake of coffee or something stronger. Just over 6 miles (in less than 2 hours) from Hornbeam to the Squinting Cat so most would have managed 9-10 miles on a round trip from home. For reference the Squinting Cat is opening at 12 at the moment though someone had managed to persuade them to open early today! Thanks to Richard for leading us. Liz

