

Today's ride was not for the faint hearted and the forecast of strong winds and rain from the remnants of Storm Jonas caused a few of our regulars to take a break this week. Nevertheless, 13 brave souls turned up including Roger who was guesting with us for a second time.

We left Trencherfield and followed the canal for around 4 miles up to Dover Lock. We cycled into strong gusts of headwind on this section of the route so were grateful that it was early in the ride. We left the canal making our way over towards Kingsdown Flash before then following Bickershaw Lane for a spell. We then took the footpath alongside the prison up into Hindley and crossed the town to reach the entrance of Borsdane Wood. The path through the wood was heavier than normal with erosion in places where the recent heavy rainfall had cut across the path.

Jim H showed us a back route from the wood exit to help us avoid the heavy traffic on Bolton Road. We were into the wind again down Hall Lane before crossing on a mixture of good private road and rough bridleway to meet the canal at New Springs. It was downhill all the way then back to our start point having completed 15½ miles. It certainly blew the cobwebs away!