

## **Thelma's Treat???**

Fresh from her Garmin awareness session, the subsequent purchase of a Garmin Tourer device and a brand new Whyte bike Thelma kindly offered to lead one of our Tuesday rides. And today was the day. Word must have got out because despite the rather cold April morning and the threat of rain a record number of riders turned up at Trencherfield Mill ready to savour Thelma's treat! Tom Kenyon, joined us a guest.

Twenty seven riders hung on her every word as Thelma describe the route she had planned for us – finishing off with those words some of us love and others loath– 'there are plenty of hills'.

With cameraman Phil sampling the delights of the Devon countryside Brian kindly offered to take up the role of cameraman. And off we set heading along the canal towards Haigh Hall. The ride up to the hall was pretty uneventful but as we were having our normal refreshment break Thelma discovered a puncture in her front tyre. As usual there were sufficient numbers of willing volunteers to help remedy the flat – whilst others discussed the nuances of organising a musical play list – Tony G's gig on Friday evening being the focus of this conversation.

Suitably refreshed and tyres inflated we set off for the climb to the Balcarres Arms – the highest point on the ride before making our way along Toddington Lane and into Little Scotland. From Suzanna's Resturant we had a nice descent to Arley and then down Red Rock Lane. However, what goes down then has to go up and so it was, as we started the climb up Rectory Lane towards the centre of Standish. Half-way up the climb Brain also suffered a front wheel puncture – Clive, Steve and Jim H kindly offered to help while the rest continued through Standish and onto Shevington. Jim H had been briefed about the planned route so could lead this small group back to the finish. The ride from Standish down into Shevington was a real treat, downhill all the way – I'm not sure that the motorists following behind this group of 20+ riders viewed it in quite the same light.

From Shevington we turned into Vicarage Road for the run down to Crooke village and the canal towpath back to Trencherfield Mill. Fortunately, the recent spell of dry weather had left the towpath in far better condition than of late – I'm sure even Anthony would have been happy with these dry conditions!

A great ride of some 16 miles, definitely with some hills but finished with a good downhill and a flat final couple of miles to the finish. Brian did a sterling job with the camera, probably doing twice the group's mileage as he attempted to get group photo's at various points along the ride. And finally, well done Thelma, I'm sure we all look forward to your next ride.