

This week's ride from Trencherfield got off to a great start when Phil 1 was presented with a donation of £80 from the Three Sisters Tea Fund which had been operated by Doreen, Enid and Jean. Thank you very much ladies. The funds have been used to support our recent purchase of 6 walkie talkie radios. Les and David, our two newest members, joined us in the 20 strong group.

Well, the sun was shining again and Phil 1 offered to lead the ride. He informed the group that the route would be improvised as he didn't have a route pre-planned. Brian again offered to continue with camera duties and Steve and Tony G put their hands up to cover the back marker role. We made our way along the canal to Scotman's Flash where we passed several families of geese with goslings toddling behind. We left the canal at Platt Bridge and made our way across to the Woodcock Drive estate. We left the rear of the estate and passed through a large puddle (or lake as Joyce described it) – not too popular with the usual suspects. We then proceeded up towards Leyland Park and the usual drop in and out of the ditch which was safely negotiated although Sheila had to swerve to miss the enthusiastic cameraman who was keen to get close to the action.

We followed the pig sty route to Bickershaw and crossed Bickershaw Lane to make our way to Fir Tree Flash. The tracks to the Flash contained the usual puddles that don't seem to dry up until we get a baking hot summer. The muddy bit at the end was a bit tricky but everyone thankfully got through in one piece. We circled the Flash then up and over the bumpy hills towards Plank Lane. We went through Crankwood and on towards Kingsdown next. We followed the track and road to circle around Kingsdown Flash and then left the Abram estate via Lee Lane. Rita waved goodbye to us soon after as we were cycling past her front door. The rest of us made our way to Dover Lock to rejoin the canal and return back to our start point.

We had covered 17 miles of varied terrain to put it politely. Thankfully the good weather would be ideal for bike cleaning so no harm done then!