

The heavy rain overnight and in the early morning left us with depleted numbers for this week's ride from Trencherfield. We had received a few advance apologies for absence but there were plenty of regulars who were missing and hadn't sent in sick notes!

Nevertheless, twelve of us had made the effort, including our latest member, Eric, who had not been deterred by the weather. A good start that Eric. Jim T took the lead on the ride as we took to the canal bank heading out to Bamfurlong. It was noticeable that there were a few large puddles on the canal bank at Poolstock which is not a place that is usually affected by heavy rain. The rain had subsided although it was quite windy but this didn't stop us rattling along at a steady pace. We joined the road at Bamfurlong heading through Stubshaw Cross onto Riding Lane where we encountered a few more sizeable puddles. As we travelled through Golborne we stopped to regroup and seemed to have lost a couple of riders, including new boy Eric who we thought might have had enough of us already! It turned out that Eric and Len had been waiting for Enid who they thought was behind them but was, in fact, near the front. That mishap was compounded by Jean discovering that her rear tyre pressure was low. Len got stuck in with his bike pump but made no impact so he had to change the inner tube.

After a stop of around twenty minutes we continued our journey. We went through Golborne, Lowton, Plank Lane and Tamar then into Hindley Green. We had a further incident on Sandy Lane when Jim T's chain came off and jammed but Jim H came to the rescue this time assisting Jim to release the trapped chain without further damage. The latter part of the route took us through the centre of Hindley and onto Amberswood before we reached the canal to ease our way back into Wigan. The ride covered a little over 18 miles. It had certainly been eventful and the cuppa at the Community Warehouse was most welcome at the end.