

News for March 2009

Starting on a sour note for our first ever news item, Jane Chapman and Berry Parker were at the "Get Gorgeous" training session in Bristol on 14th March when both had their bikes stolen.

Jane's was a Thorn Raven with Rohloff hub gear, burgundy coloured, drop handle bars, black brooks saddle (shown in the photo)



Berry's was a bright green Saracen Mountain bike with brooks saddle.

The Thorn must be pretty unique so if anybody spots it please get in touch with Jane. Lets hope both bikes are recovered.

The new programme is now on sale - only a quid and you don't need to switch on your computer to see where to meet next week. John has enough for everybody.

On Thursday 9th April Alex von Tutschek is leading a motorised ride, no details have been made available yet but I spoke to Alex after the ride to Marshfield. The start point will be the same as last year and he will be sending me directions shortly which I will publish here. Stay online - stay up to date.

Road Closure - I rode out of Luckington recently intending to take the right turn to Badminton. Ignoring the "Road Closed" sign as usual I was stopped in my tracks very quickly where the road had been completely removed to make a stronger bridge over the stream. It is still possible to take the lane towards Cherry Orchard from Luckington by the Old Royal Ship and join the Badminton lane, otherwise it is the B4040 to Acton Turville. The work is expected to last until late April. South Glos must have checked our programme as we are not due that way until July.

Thursday rides in March

5th March. A bright, sunny, dry day and two dozen met at Bitton (plus a few at the wrong venue) for an unusual route to Yatton Keynell. Tony Weaver lead us along the cycle track, through Bath and on through Batheaston before climbing Bannerdown hill and on past Colerne airfield. Some then took the clean and direct route to Yatton Keynell while the official party descended into the pretty hamlet of Slaughterford and approached the Bell pub from the South. About forty at the pub.

12th March. Another bright sunny day saw another 24 at Rexam where John Huish was leading to Brookend for lunch at the Lamastide. The route took us through Tytherington, Tortworth, Damery and across the A38 by Applegates coach depot and onto Brookend. With time in hand we carried on past to the Sharpness canal at Purton for a group picture (see the Photo Gallery section) before returning to the pub to make a 44 strong group.

19th March. You could be fooled into think that Spring was here as 18 assembled at Ashton on another fine day. Through Long Ashton and along the cycle track to Nailsea was recognisable, then John Upward's local knowledge kicked in as he took us through new houses and old lanes, eventually crossing Kenn Moor and into Clevedon before taking the coast road to Portishead and lunch at the Windmill with a similar number to the previous week. They are doing a lot of work on their outside patio area, if we get a Summer this year we may even end up using it. On the way back we passed the car compound at Portbury docks where it took several minutes just passing Toyota Landcruisers. Who knows if they will ever sell those things. Maybe they should just tarmac over them and start again.

26th March. Thoughts of Spring went out the window as nine met in the cold, rain and wind for John Bishop to lead to Marshfield. The Golden Valley, Wick, Hinton Hill were a test but after crossing the A46 the rain eased and we were blown along to West Kington before detouring to Nettleton and Mountain Bower to get the miles in. After lunch at the Catherine Wheel (18 cyclists) the sun was out for the return trip. But it was a cruel trick, one of the sunny intervals between the sleet showers. Soon it was head down into the wind with the rain in your face although by two thirty the sun was out and the sky was blue.