

u3a Bike Rides
Wimbledon Park, Morden Hall and the River Wandle
Friday 13 February 2026

The large response to the Ride notice showed that Group members were keen to get out on two wheels again. The ride last week had to be cancelled due to heavy rain. We welcomed Jo to her first ride with us.

With the improving weather forecast – yesterday it said it was going to rain - we convened at Brockwell Lido and once we had been photographed, it was on to the well-worn route to Clapham Common, Wandsworth Common and past forbidding HMP Wandsworth.



Then it was a long free-wheel ride down Earlsfield Road, across Garret Lane and Merton Road, along Revelstoke Road and we arrived in Wimbledon Park.

“No cycling” was the signage and so we walked the cycles to Cooks Kitchen Park Café for coffee. Some sat inside, others on the veranda with a view of the tennis lessons in progress.

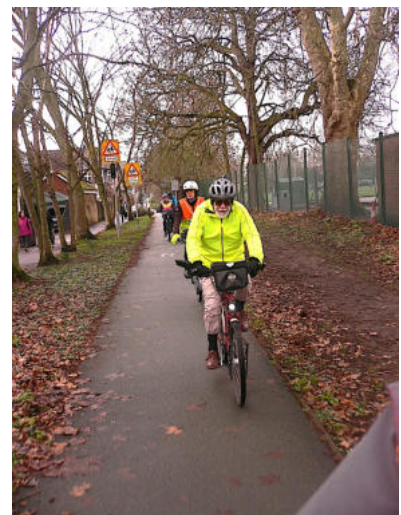


We continued the walk on the “No Cycling” path to the south end of the park, passing a now defunct police station which has a public viewing platform as the roof.

By way of Home Park Avenue and residential roads we arrived at the bottom of Wimbledon Hill, and then across Wimbledon Hill Road to Mansel Road and into Alt Grove to pick up C208 bike route .

This runs alongside a narrow path beside railway line serving Wimbledon Station. At Southdown Road we turned into Lower Downs Road and negotiated the narrow road under the railway bridge.

This soon led on to bike path, the Chase, over half a mile of easy cycling, past Wimbledon Tennis Club, then across Kingston Road on a crossing, and along Church Lane.



Continuing on quiet residential roads into Kenley Road, crossing busy Morden Road we arrived at Morden Hall Park.

Most of the group chose the opportunity to tour the park before meeting up at the Stable Yard where there were tables and the café.



After lunch the return route was along the River Wandle, past Merton Abbey Mills where there is a working under-shot watermill (not turning today), to Merton and Colliers Wood.

The large Sainsburys store now occupies the site of the William Morris factory. There is a memorial plaque here.

We passed the Wandle Meadow Nature Park and on to Garratt Lane, crossing to Magdalen Road, for the – strictly non-competitive! – climb up the hill. Some riders were able to take advantage of their electric motors.



From here we retraced our route across Wandsworth and Clapham Commons and, just as the forecast had predicted, a gentle rain arrived and ensured that we did not have a completely dry ride.

Many thanks to Mary and Andrew for developing and refining this route and, together with Mark, leading the three groups of riders.

Distance covered: 18 miles

Riders: *Alex Murdock. Andrew Burke. Brian Heatley David Rosenfeld. Eunice Zeffertt, Jan Rae, Jane Andrew, Jeremy Burke, Joanne Walters John Clements, Mark Stones. Martin Goffe, Mary Burke, Patrick Mulhern, Peter J LeVoir.*

Ride leaders: Andrew & Mary

Report by John Clements, 14 February 2026

Route:

[https://www.outdooractive.com/en/track/morden-hall-park-river-wandle-29-jan-2026/333919509/?utm_source=mail&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=user-shared-social-content&share=~33nfnzoh\\$4ossdstw#caml=cj1,-17t1p,8i3k0t,0,0](https://www.outdooractive.com/en/track/morden-hall-park-river-wandle-29-jan-2026/333919509/?utm_source=mail&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=user-shared-social-content&share=~33nfnzoh$4ossdstw#caml=cj1,-17t1p,8i3k0t,0,0)

The River Wandle flows for about ten miles from its source (a spring near Tesco on the A23), through Morden and Earlsfield. It runs beneath the shopping centre on Garrett Lane before emerging again for half a kilometre and joining the Thames at Wandsworth.

The Wandle has been well-used since Roman times as a working river, powering corn mills as recorded in the Domesday Book. It was heavily industrialised in the 17th and 18th century, attracting a number of industries, including copperworking, papermaking and, especially, textile printing.

In Victorian times, the Wandle was one of the hardest-working rivers in the world, with 90 mills along its length, and water so pure and clear that it attracted prestigious printers like William Morris and Arthur Liberty.

