

Cycle Ayrshire's week consisted of two cycling opportunities.

The first, last Thursday, was a 'do-it-yourself' with the meet-up destination at the Burns Birthplace Museum restaurant. The forecast of a bright day punctuated by showers did not deter and twelve called in for lunch.

Irvine, Troon, Auchinleck and Ochiltree were amongst the places represented.

Sunday saw the first of the monthly Easy Rides for the new year.

The ride from a wet and windy Troon to Kilwinning was tackled by six riders, five of whom had ridden to the start and were already damp.

They persuaded the only car arrival to get her bike out and join them while alterations to the route were discussed.

The main change would be more miles on road as the proposed tracks were water-logged in too many places.

Setting off through the puddled streets of Troon and snowdrop bedecked Fullarton Wood, they passed Corraith and followed the leader to Kilwinning. They pedalled through Dundonald, Drybridge and Dreghorn following the 'old road to Kilwinning' then on by Irvine's Bourtreehill, Stanecastle and Lawthorn.

The original plan to enter Eglinton Park had been rejected due to the condition of the tracks, so they headed along the A736 to the B785 past Benslie and skirted the boundary of the park to enter from the Irvine Road.

The Tournament Cafe was the lunch venue and hot food was quickly ordered and consumed.

Eating finished, the North Ayrshire contingent set off for home while the remaining four headed back to Troon via the main road, Irvine Moor and Gales Road.

The on and off rain guaranteed 25 miles of dampness which was not unduly cold for a January ride.