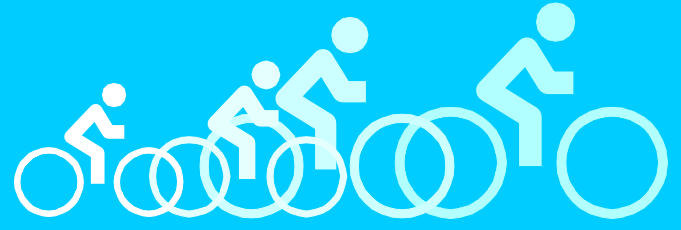


# CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



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## IN THIS EDITION

Cycling survey

Success in opening access

Government cuts decimate cycling projects

TPT anniversary ride

Bike Week is another success.

TPT baton relay

Holiday Wednesdays at Nostell

# Cycling Survey

Wakefield District Cycle Forum (WDCF) is joining up with Wakefield NHS to conduct some research on cycling in the Wakefield District. We want to find out what deters people from cycling and what cyclists think would improve the experience of cycling in the district. We also hope that the survey will help to direct the work of WDCF in a way that meets the needs of cyclists and potential cyclist in Wakefield.

If you have not already done so please complete the enclosed form or complete it on line at [www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk](http://www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk)

## Little successes can make big differences



The above photograph shows the new access point to Anglers Lake from Santingley Lane. Till recently this access point was blocked by a high 'step over', which meant that cyclists had

to lift their bikes over it. Not a pleasant task especially if you have a tag-alone for the kids.

Now that the access is open, after nearly 2 years of campaigning by the WDCF, life is easier for cyclists but also for wheelchair and pushchair users. It took a long time but we got there in the end

# Government Cuts Axe Cycling Projects

One of the most important aspects of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum's work is the consultations we have with Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (WMDC) on the development of cycling infrastructure in the District. Representatives of the Cycle Forum meet with WMDC officers on the council to agree the projects which will be pursued over the forthcoming year. These projects are funded through the Integrated Transport grant that the council receives from central government through the Local Transport Plan for West Yorkshire.

The present year's grant was just short of £4 million in total, with around £400,000 allocated to cycling projects. As a result of the coalition governments budget cuts this funding has be

cut by around £1 million. On top of that the council has decided to use around £1.2 million of the remaining allocation to fund the high level of road maintenance resulting from last winter's severe weather. The outcome of these decisions is a massive cut in funding for all other aspects of highways projects for this financial year. Cycling projects for 2010/11 will be decimated and in effect only projects which have been completed already, or are near completion, will see the light of day.

This seems a short-sighted policy on behalf of the coalition government as small amounts spent on cycling projects reap large benefits in health, economic growth and environmental protection. Many other cycling projects are

threatened and the very existence of Cycle England, which is behind much of the developments in cycling infrastructure and promotion in England, is in doubt. To find out more about the problems associated with the coalition government's policy you can visit

[www.savecyclingengland.org](http://www.savecyclingengland.org)

The Cycle Forum will continue to meet with the council to discuss future projects and standards for cycle infrastructure and the steering group has already started to identify projects which are low cost or can be funded in other ways. We will continue to work on your behalf to make Wakefield a better place for all cyclists.

## Trans-Pennine Trail Anniversary Ride

The cycle forum ride to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the TPT attracted a good turnout and as you can see the age range of the participants could hardly be wider.



# Bike Week is another success story

Bike Week was again a busy time for the Cycle Forum this year. We ran a full programme of events at Nostell Priory to kick off the week on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June and finished with a fun day at Anglers Country Park. In between we organised two rides, one from Pontefract and one from Kirkgate Station, Wakefield.



Getting ready for the relay race at Nostell Priory



Too many cones?



Don's Cycles Team were winners of the relay race.



Two for the price of one on the skills course at Anglers country park



A moment of relaxation for the Bike Doctors



Geoff forgot his hearing aid?



# Trans-Pennine Trail Relay

The Trans-Pennine Trail celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year and to mark the occasion there was a baton relay from all the terminal points on the Trail which all met at the central point of the trail in Barnsley. The Cycle Forum participated in the Leeds to Barnsley relay meeting the Leeds contingent on the Leeds/Wakefield border and transporting the baton to the Barnsley border.

The anniversary celebrations concluded with a festival in Barnsley on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately we were unable to join the celebrations as we were all busy at Nostell Priory with our own big Bike Week Festival.



Young riders on a guided ride in Nostell Parkland

## Holiday Wednesday

As part of the Cycle Forum programme of events this summer we held five 'Holiday Wednesday' events at Nostell Priory. The idea was to introduce families to the joys of cycling. Our Cycle Skills Course is always a great hit with children and many of them manage to persuade their parents to join in. Over 160 people enjoyed the skills course over the five weeks.

We also ran some guided rides around the grounds at Nostell and further afield to Anglers Country Park. Around 30 people joined in the rides with a number of family groups participating. Most participants made use of the bikes we purchased with grants from the NHS and Community Foundation. We are beginning to see a number of these families return to our events and there is evidence to suggest that some of them have become regular cyclists after having started with one of our guided rides.



Receiving the baton at the Leeds/Wakefield border



Handing over the baton to walkers at the Barnsley border



David gets the bird at Pontefract Liquorace Festival

