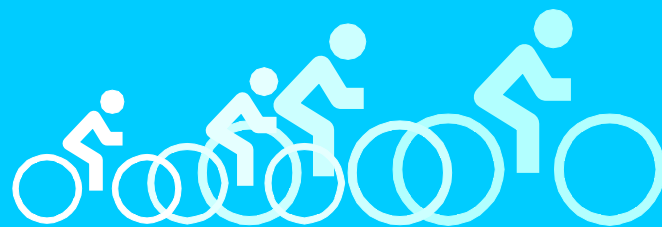


CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Edition No.28

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Bike Doctor



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Work Days

Cycle Shows



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Volunteers Needed

As you know Wakefield District Cycle Forum is an organisation entirely run by volunteers. We now run a very diverse, extensive programme with a need for more and more volunteers.

Inside this newsletter you will find reports of many of our activities for which we need volunteers. If you think you can help please get in touch at info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk

General Meeting

The Cycle Forum half-year meeting will be held in September. It is at these meetings that important decisions are made about the future direction of the Cycle Forum so it is important that as many member as possible attend.

Why not come and join us

Tuesday 22nd September
6.45pm
County Hall, Wakefield
Committee Room B

Bike Maintenance Courses

There are still places left on the last Bike Maintenance Courses of the summer.

This Basic Bike Maintenance Training session will cover puncture repairs, gears indexing, cable exchange, etc:

Tuesday 16th September at Cycle Technology, Wakefield 6pm till 8pm

Booking is essential for this sessions and you should book by email to info@cyclng-wakefield.org.uk

There will also be a DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in session:

Sunday 6th September, Anglers Country Park, 12 noon till 2 pm

Booking is not required for this session.

All our bike maintenance sessions are run by our three 'Bike Doctors', Graham West, Dennis Bell and Steve Valentine.



Workgroup still improving our cycle paths

We experienced a setback recently when our workgroup manager, Ian Hookham, had to resign from that job and so for couple of months our programme of repairs and improvements came to a halt. Ian had done a great job so we were worried that he would prove difficult to replace.

Fortunately two of our most valuable volunteers have stepped forward to take over the role. John Harvey will be providing the 'construction' expertise and he will be assisted by Richard Denbigh as 'communicator and coordinator'.

We have, since they took over, completed two workdays, both around the Nostell/Wragby area. We continue to develop the path network in the Nostell Estate and eight of our volunteer have now improved the surface of the path from Doncaster Road through the woods near the Upper 'fishing' Lake. (see photo)



The workgroup, of six volunteers this time, also spent a morning surfacing and clearing the bridleway at Went Lane in Wragby.

Dates for future workdays, which start at 10 am and usually last 2 hours, have been arranged they are:

Saturday 15th August, Monday 24th August, Wednesday 9th September, Saturday 19th September, Monday 28th September.

If you would like to assist with our workgroup please get in touch with Richard at: wdcfpressofficer@gmail.com



A Summer of Cycling Fun

The summer holiday period sees the Cycle Forum make a weekly appearance at Nostell Priory and Parkland as the centrepiece of the National Trust's Active Wednesday programme.

From 11am till 3pm every Wednesday from 22nd July till the end of August we will be there with our information stall and the cycle skills course. The skills course is so popular that we now have people, including lots of grandparents with their grandchildren, coming back year after year. This year we will also be able to make use of the new cycle tracks in the parkland to take guided rides around the grounds.



In addition to the Holiday Wednesdays we will have an event at Nostell Priory and Parkland on Sunday 2nd August, 11am till 3pm. As well as our 'Holiday Wednesday' activities we will have the Bike Doctor in attendance to do health checks on those long neglected bikes.

On Thursday 13th August the Cycle Forum 'circus' will hit South Kirby from 10am till 4pm. This is our second year at this community event where our skill course proved very popular last year amongst the young residents. Again our Bike Doctor will be in attendance to check out the locals' bikes.

Have a fine summer of cycling!

Volunteer as an Events Helper

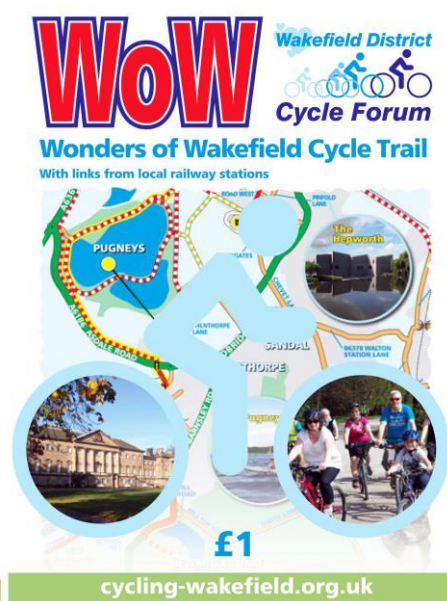
As always we need as much volunteer help as possible at these events. As you can see from the photo opposite it is not all hard graft.

So if you can help for any amount of time on any of these days please email us at info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk



Maps and T-shirts selling fast

In the last Newsletter we reported on the production of two new maps to bring up to date the 'Wheel' and the 'WoW', which have seen many improvements since the first maps were published.



We are pleased to report that the maps are proving even more popular than their predecessors. Fortunately we made sure we printed a good supply so you have no worries about getting hold of copies.

The new maps can be purchased from Squires Tearoom and reception at the discovery centre at Anglers Country Park, Pugneys Water Park reception, the Shop at Nostell Priory and the Information Centre in Wakefield. They will also be available on most rides from our ride leaders and at all of our summer events.

We also reported that to celebrate the new maps we have produced a selection of T-shirts. If you have completed The Wakefield Wheel and/or the Wonders of Wakefield you can let everyone know by wearing the t-shirt to match your achievement. Both of these t-shirts are proving popular.

In addition we have produced a Wakefield District Cycle Forum T-shirt which is available to purchase for the first time.

Anyone who is anyone in the cycling community in West Yorkshire should not be seen on their bikes this summer unless they are wearing these 'height-of-fashion' tops. Make sure you don't miss out by placing your order now.

T-shirts are £8 each and will be available at Forum rides and events this summer. To order your T-shirt please email Sarah Furber, our merchandise manager, at sarahfurber@btinternet.com telling her your size and at which ride or event you would like to pick up (and pay for of course) your T-shirt.

All profits from the sale of these T-shirts will go to our path fund. So you will not only look good in them this summer but you will feel good because you are contributing to the improvement of cycle infrastructure in Wakefield District.



Guided Rides Still Popular

The boom in cycling which has spilled over onto our guided rides programme shows no signs of abating. For the last three years we have experienced record high attendances on all of our rides and the programme this year shows that the trend is continuing.

By the end of June our 72 rides had attracted an average attendance of around 20. Of the 362 individuals who joined us on the rides 224 were newcomers this year. This shows that we are succeeding in the aim of the programme, which is to get potential cyclists 'back on their bikes'. The most popular of our rides are the 'easy' rides we run from Pugneys and Nostell but 'steady' rides are also proving popular as newcomers move up to a longer ride as they gain confidence. Our new 'cycle hub' at Queens Mill is also becoming a popular venue as our programme from here becomes more known.



It is also satisfying that the increase in women on our rides has been sustained this year. In our early years we were never able to attract more than around 30% women on our rides but last year that leaped to over 40% and we have sustained that figure so far this year.

Our ride leaders and helpers do a great job and we have to thank them for helping many more people to 'get back on their bikes'.

Become a Ride Leader

Regular readers of this newsletter will know that one of the most successful parts of the work of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum is our programme of rides. This programme is designed to encourage people to 'get back on their bikes' and we can claim to have done just this for hundreds of people each year. The programme cannot function without our brilliant team of ride leaders and helpers. Why not join us as a ride leader/helper volunteer. You will love it.

We will be running a training course for new ride leaders/helper so if you are interested email us at info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk



Consultation on New Road Developments

A central part of the Cycle Forum's role since its inception has been the liaison with Wakefield Council Highways Department to try and influence the way highways infrastructure is developed to the benefit of cyclists. This is not an easy job and we have experienced many frustrations over the years. Thanks must go to our volunteer for their perseverance. Below are some comments on proposed future highways schemes.

Wakefield Eastern Relief Road

This new road will extend from the Doncaster Road, at the junction with the road to Normanton, to Aberford Road near the Wakefield Hospice.

The road design includes a segregated cycle path in both directions, which is very welcome. At a consultation meeting held on 13th August our representatives identified a number of issues that needed to be addressed. These include:

Despite a segregated path there is a high density of junctions with no indication that the cycle path will have priority at these. Cyclists are unlikely to make use of the path if they are to constantly give way at junctions so plans need to ensure that cyclists have priority at junctions.

Similarly there is not sufficient provision for cyclists at roundabouts and therefore the adoption of Dutch style roundabouts is needed.

Adequate links to other cycle route, the waterways route in particular, are needed.

Link from Kirkgate Station to City Centre

This new link route is a potential improvement to the cycle infrastructure in Wakefield City. It promises to have a useful shared pedestrian/cyclist facility but our representative identified a number of issues which need addressing. These include:

A number of Toucan crossings are required to assist pedestrians and cyclist. This is particularly so at Chantry House and where George Street meets Kirkgate.

We should ensure that Toucans are designed to give quick change for pedestrians and cyclists.

A number of footways need to be extended for shared use including on east Kirkgate

HS2 Cycle Infrastructure

This is a scheme in its very early stages but some comments from our representatives include: The path should be aligned with the rail route with links into other routes.

The route should offer more new paths and not just make use of existing paths such as the TPT. These might include a path using the old Midland main line railway track from Monk Bretton to Normanton and a path linking Stanley Ferry with Bottom Boat.

If you wish to comment or become involved in these consultations please email:-

info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk

