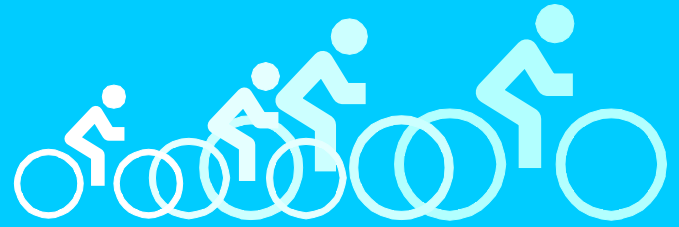


# CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



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# The Fun of Cycling

As you can see in the photo above everyone has great fun on our rides. The weather may deceive you but that was on our Santa Ride from Nostell Priory. Riders had some scary fun on our Halloween ride. We have a page of photos inside this newsletter to prove it.

Also inside are reports of members doing their own thing and organising group rides. Why not join them.

## A. G. M.

### A date for your diary.

The Cycle Forum Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Papers for the meeting will be circulated later but you should reserve this date to attend our most important meeting of the year.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

**6.45pm**

**Town Hall, Wakefield**

**Old Court Room**

## Bike Maintenance Drop-in Sessions and Courses

### DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in sessions:

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm

Booking is not required for these sessions.

**Bike Maintenance Courses** will follow each of these sessions and last approximately 2 hours.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February, Anglers Country Park, 1 pm  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Anglers Country Park, 1 pm

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

Booking is essential for these sessions and you

should book by emailing [info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk)

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



## Workgroup improving the TPT



Our workgroup has been concentrating over the last few months on improving the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) between Old Royston and Walton. Volunteers are seen here laying a new all-weather surface on the stretch of the TPT at Old Royston, which joins with the Chevet Branch Line and is part of the Wakefield Wheel and the Wonders of Wakefield cycle trails. They have also cleared vegetation and tidied up the path in Walton.

The workgroup will be turning out for two mornings a month in February and March.

If you are not already on the mailing list to receive information about the workdays please contact Richard Denbigh at [WDCFpressofficer@gmail.com](mailto:WDCFpressofficer@gmail.com)





## Cycling Fun on our Rides



**The Halloween Ride** has become a permanent fixture in our rides programme since it was introduced in 2013. Yours truly thinks it is a mad idea to go out in the dark with a bunch of scary people (and that is before they put on their costumes) but it has continued to be very popular.

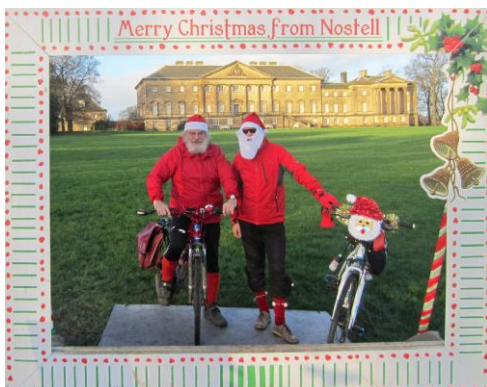
As you can see from the photo below it is not all hard cycling through the woods and the pub stop allows time for calm reflection on the meaning of life.



Another great spectacle of our rides year is the annual Santa rides. We organise the **Wakefield Hospice Santa Ride** which attracted over 60 riders and, along with the Santa Dash, has already raised over £3,000 for the Hospice funds. It was not great weather but everyone had a good time. The mince pies and hot drink at the half-way point at Anglers Country Park was most welcome.



As you can see, however one of the participants was wishing his dad (or mum maybe) had fitted better mudguards.



It may be a smaller event but our **Santa Ride from Nostell Priory** is every bit as good fun.

The mince pies don't arrive on the scene till the end of the ride but they are well worth waiting for as mince pies are something the National Trust at Nostell Priory and Parkland does better than most.





## Squires Tearoom Saved

Cyclists are very fond of their cuppa. So much so that the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC), the national cycling campaigning body, is also known as Café-to-Café. One of the most popular of 'cyclists' cafes in West Yorkshire is Squires Tearoom at Anglers Country Park. It is the focus of many Cycle Forum rides and a meeting place for cycle groups throughout, not only Wakefield District, but South, West and North Yorkshire.

It was shocking news therefore when we heard that Wakefield Council were proposing to terminate the lease for the tearoom. On hearing this the cycle forum at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November unanimously agreed to mount a campaign to save this much treasured facility and immediately contacted the Council to urge them to think again and to meet with Cycle Forum representatives to discuss their decision.

In parallel with the Forum campaign, which included many members writing to the Council and their local councillors, one of our members, a regular fixture in the tearoom, John Matthews set about organising a petition and contacting the local newspaper. As John pointed out: 'The tearoom is used by road clubs, groups of mountain bikers and is a frequent venue for large number of walkers. It is also used extensively by groups of people with learning difficulties. It would be such a shame if the tearoom does close'

In response to John's approach Wakefield Express asked him to organise a group photo outside the tearoom. As you can see from the photo, even with only a few days to organise the event a large crowd of around 130 people turned up. The crowd represented cyclists, walkers, bird watchers and families who use the tearoom on a regular basis. They and many others made phone calls or emailed their councillors and council officials to protest at the closure of the tearoom.

The petition at Squire's collected around 1,400 signatures. To add to this, as word got around petitions were organised in other parts of West Yorkshire including by cycle groups in Kirklees and Calderdale.



So by the time Cycle Forum representative met with the Council, on 6<sup>th</sup> January, they had already been inundated with phone calls and emails, thousands had signed petitions and the Wakefield Express had featured a prominent article on the campaign. All of this had a positive impact on the Council

On the next day, 7<sup>th</sup> January, it was announced that the council had listened to all the representation and had decided that the lease for the tearoom should be renewed.

Terry Davey, the proprietor of the tearooms said: 'Please pass on my thanks to all who supported the campaign. It is the persistent complaints and objections that the council have had to deal with over the past two months that made them rethink. I and my staff look forward to welcoming cyclists and other groups to the tearoom for years to come'



## Wakefield Social Cycling Group



I first started riding my bike on the Wakefield forum rides on May Day 2015 on a Nostell Priory easy ride. I didn't fall in love with it straight away. In fact on this first occasion I thought I was going to be sick. It was however the wonderful people in the group which made me think I should carry on.

My GP had convinced me to buy a bike as a way to improve my health and fitness. I have arthritis in my ankles and had gained a huge amount of weight after I gave up my 40 a day habit. Cycling has done wonders for my ankles but not a lot for my waistline (just too much cake to choose from).

I joined in the forum rides for the next few months, who I must say had their work cut out with me; wrong gears, wrong saddle height, falling off and constantly at the back. Then I started looking beyond the realms of the fabulous forum rides by researching rides and new routes further away. I like an adventure and, after chatting to a few other riders, I found there was quite a bit of interest in these rides, so we decided to start a facebook page. Now we had a platform to share rides and invite people along who also want to venture further but didn't really want to bike on their own.

I felt there was a gap in the market for a steady longer ride, our group sits in between the forum, fast road rides and the wonderful work FBCC do. Our rides do have a great social element with cafe and pub stops on the rides, and have included rides from Scarborough to Whitby, the Tissington trail, Hull to Hornsea and over the Humber Bridge, along the canal from Castleford to Bingley five rise, Elland to Rochdale, and Ladybower reservoir. We also have a regular mid-week ride to the pub and have had such good fun, lots of laughs with some incredible people. I have seen me leave for a ride at 8am and not get home until 10pm as the rides are sometimes too social :-)

Some rides have numbered more than 20 people which seems to suggest that they have hit a spot. I am looking forward to many new adventures in 2016, including C2C along Hadrian's Cycleway.

I don't know quite what it is about biking that I love. It may be a new found confidence at completing a route, the amazing company or maybe taking in some of the wonderful views, but it is a winning combination and all thanks to the Wakefield District Cycle Forum. They didn't put my bum on a seat, but they did keep it there and gave me the confidence to keep biking. I could kick myself at some of the views I have missed by not having a bike, but better late than never.

Gill Mulroe





## Faster, Further

### The Story of 'FBCC' The Cycling Club

As we keep reminding everyone at every opportunity the rides programme of the Cycle Forum is there to encourage people who want to cycle but lack the confidence to get on, or back on, their bikes. But many of those who start on our rides want to go on to something a bit more challenging while still retaining the social atmosphere which they enjoyed on Forum rides. Elsewhere in this newsletter we have a report on the Social Ride Group which is organising steady but longer rides for those who want something more than a morning with the Cycle Forum.

Another group of our members also organise rides using their own group FBCC. There is always speculation about what these initials stand for and if you join the group I am sure one of the members will offer suggestions. FBCC was originally set up by Graham West (One of our Bike Doctors) and Neil Davis in 2005 and grew into a social club of mates who ventured further afield than the then programmed Forum rides.



In recent years the group has reformed and now



include Steve Valentine and Steve Thorley-Lawson as key members, who also run the Forum 'challenging' rides from Anglers Country Park each month.

FBCC publish rides and events on their Facebook group, the pace and distance represents a big 'step up' from the Forum's Challenging ride programme and gives an opportunity to push your fitness levels that bit further, for those wishing to of course. FBCC is not solely a road bike club nor a mountain bike club, they simply enjoy all forms of cycling. Events vary from weekend road rides of 50 miles plus, the 'Wednesday night rides' to longer

off road rides like the Grenoside Grueller!(we daren't ask). Indeed any of the members of the group are encouraged to post an event at any time.

If you are thinking 'this sounds a great group to join', beware. The group motto is 'Faster, Further' and although they are a welcoming bunch you should bear this in mind.

The group started as 'just a bunch of mates' and although its ranks have grown since its inception it still maintains that atmosphere. As well as their occasional rides, both local and further afield, the group organises an annual 'challenge'. These have been long distance endurance events including C2C, Challenge the Dragon, Lands End to John O'Groats, the Purer 3, Stages 1 & 2 of the 2014 TdF, West Yorkshire Cycle Route, Liverpool to Leeds Canal and the Wakefield Wheel. The plan is to ride from Inverness to Glasgow in 2016.

Although this group is not formally part of the Cycle Forum's ride programme they are great supporter of the forum's work and we wish them all the best in their future ventures

