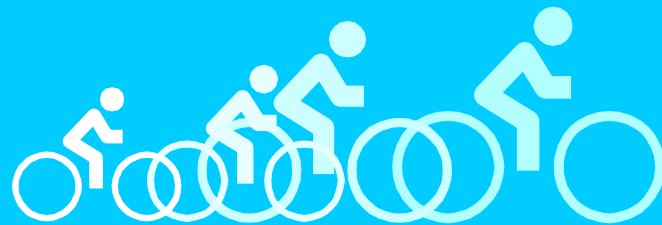


CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



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February 2017

A most interesting ride



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Annual General Meeting

Our most important meeting of the year takes place at the end of March. Make sure you are there

AGM
6.45 pm
Thursday
30th March
Town Hall
Old Court Room
Wakefield

Basic Cycle Maintenance

Our bike doctor team will be running a basic cycle maintenance class in March

Sunday 19th March
1pm till 3pm
The Classroom
Discovery Centre
Anglers Country Park

To book a place on the course email us at info@cyclling-wakefield.org.uk

DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Sessions

DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in sessions:

The very popular sessions run by our Bike Doctor team will continue during 2017 on a monthly basis (except May and August). The third Sunday of the month is the regular time and the classroom at the discovery centre in Anglers Country Park is the regular venue. Each session last for two hours from 11 am.

The coming sessions are:

Sunday 19th February, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm

Sunday 19th March, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm

Sunday 16th April, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm.

Booking is not required for these sessions.



Riding with Santa



It has become a Cycle Forum tradition to host Santa Rides in the build up to Christmas. 2016 saw us lead around 60 participants on the Wakefield Hospice Santa Ride on Sunday 11th December. The ride left from Pugneys and visited Anglers Country Park where Cycle Forum volunteers refreshed the participants with drinks and mince pies.

The following week Sunday 18th December Nostell was the venue for the Santa Ride. Almost 30 people turned up for this and on their return to Nostell were again rewarded with drinks and mince pies in the splendour of the stables yard.

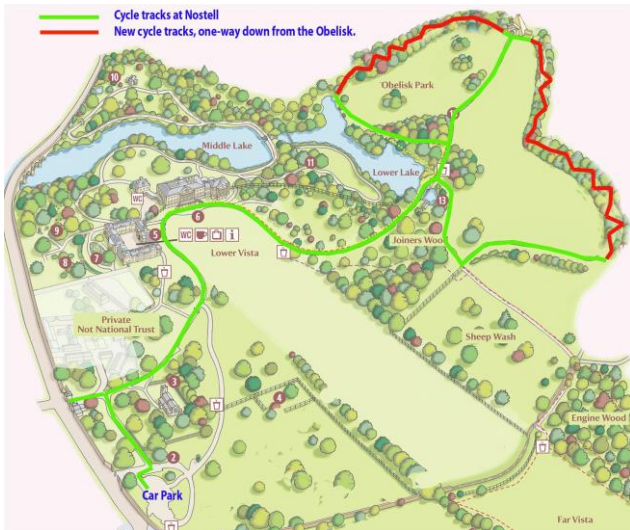
As you can see from the photos, a good time was had by all.

Once more we give our thanks to our band of volunteer ride leaders and helpers who make all of our rides possible and do their job in a friendly and relaxed fashion.



New Cycle Path at Nostell

The National Trust at Nostell has been one of the Cycle Forum's longest standing partners and became our first 'Cycle Hub' and the venue for many rides and events over the years. Last year they unveiled some new paths which improved the potential for cycling in the parkland and this coming year that potential will be further enhanced.



To add to the existing paths from the Mansion to the Obelisk and picnic area, will be two new paths through the woodlands that lead from the Obelisk to the picnic area on the east side and to the lower lake on the west. The woodland trails will be one-way only for bikes from the Obelisk down the hill. This will create a couple of circular route and a 'figure-of-eight' route which will be a 'safe' traffic-free circuit, great for novices and family groups and suitable for adapted bikes. There will be signs to take cyclists from the car park along the road to the new track. This will avoid cyclist and pedestrians from clashing, although care will need to be taken by cyclists on the tracks themselves to respect other users.

Although the trails are almost completed they will need a 3-month bedding-in period. We can however look forward to a spring opening.

The new circuit is ideal for the 'Pedal in the Park' ride which the Cycle Forum launched last year. This ride is specifically aimed at novice riders and family groups and is totally traffic-free. Pedal in the Park will recommence on Sunday 2nd April and continue throughout the summer. The new circuit is also a welcome addition to what we can offer to participants in our 'Holiday Wednesday' programme, which takes place during school holidays in May and July/August.

One for the Ladies

New to cycling, need a confidence boost, testing out a new bike or trying out cleats, then come and join British Cycling's free women only Breeze bike rides at Wakefield's Cycle Circuit, which is a 1.1km traffic-free circuit located at St Thomas a Becket Catholic Secondary School in Wakefield.

If you have not ridden for a while, then come along and we will help give you the confidence to get back on a bike. You can do 1 lap or you can do 20, it is up to you, the female Breeze Champions will be there to give you useful tips and advice, we will even cycle around the track with you if you need us to. If anyone wants to go a little faster you are welcome to ride around at your own pace, it is your hour, feel free to use it to suit your needs (please note racing will not be permitted).

There will be a monthly ride on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 18th February, 18th March and 15th April. The sessions will be 1 hour long from 10.00 till 11.00am.

For further information or to book your free place, please visit letsride.co.uk/breeze



David Leigh: Volunteer Extraordinary

David Leigh's first Cycle Forum experience was on a Tuesday evening ride from Pontefract Squash Club in May 2009 when he turned up on a fancy road bike. If I recall correctly he had managed to persuade a bike shop to donate the bike for a charity bike ride and he ended up owning the bike. This ability to acquire bikes from willing donors seems to be one of David's many talents.

From being an occasional attender in the first few years, David has steadily increased his participation in our rides (over 200 to date) and 2016 saw him record the most appearances on Cycle Forum rides (78) and qualify as our 'male rider of the year'. He also acts as ride leader for our rides from Castleford Mill and Anglers Country Park.



It has been said that David's rides are 'most interesting'. This is not only because he searches out 'interesting' routes but also acts as tour guide. As a former geologist in the coal industry David is very familiar with old mining sites in the district, of which there are many of course, and is able to increase the 'interesting' quality of his rides with potted historical narratives along the way.

On top of his ride responsibilities David still finds time to be one of our most valued and busiest of volunteers.

He now acts as Membership Secretary and Statistician (keeping records of participants in our rides and events). These are two very busy jobs. You would not be reading this now if David, as membership secretary, had not circulated the newsletter to our 1,000+ members.

Indeed, he is responsible for all our membership circulations, logging participants, volunteers and other information for over 250 rides, events and workdays. It is also an important job as it gives our partners an accurate picture of the breadth and depth of the Cycle Forum's activities.

David's family are also keen members of the Forum. Sarah Furber and his wife Isabelle are the only two ladies to have completed more than 100 rides with the Forum while daughter Nicola and grandson Ben are willing and enthusiastic helpers on our 'Holiday Wednesdays' during the school holidays. More of this next time.



2017 Rides and Events Leaflet Out Now

Our new 2017 Rides and Events Leaflet has been printed and distributed widely throughout the district.

If you know of any places that might display some leaflets, e.g. cafes, shops, community centres and other public buildings do let us know by contacting info@cyclling-wakefield.org.uk

The rides and events for the first half of the year are displayed on the last page of this newsletter.



Job Vacancies

As you keep being reminded in our newsletters and other communications Wakefield District Cycle Forum (WDCF) can only flourish through the hard work of our volunteers. At our AGM we will elect officers for the year from April and a few vacancies need to be filled. Below are some of these and we welcome expressions of interest from members willing to contribute to the work of WDCF.

Auditor. One of our two auditors has indicated that she does not wish to continue beyond this year's AGM so a new auditor is needed.

Joint Workday Co-ordinator. We need someone to work with John Harvey. John looks after our tools and transports them to our workdays. His joint co-ordinator does the paperwork and admin, which consists of telling volunteers when and where the workdays are happening and liaising with Wakefield Council who supply materials when needed.

Press and Publicity Officer. We occasionally issue press statements and we produce leaflets and other publications from time to time. This officer would be responsible for co-ordinating this activity. This position could be combined with the Newsletter Editor position but at present these jobs are carried out by separate volunteers.

Chair/Vice-Chair. These two positions have been key to the work of WDCF. The Vice-Chair has indicated that he will stand down at this year's AGM while the Chair will do the same in 2018. We are therefore looking for a new Vice-Chair (or two) who would 'shadow' the Chair for a year and then take over as Chair (and Vice-Chair) in 2018. Apart from organising our internal meetings and liaising with all our volunteers these two officers are the main contact points with external organisation and in particular the various partners with whom we work, such as Council Departments, Sustrans, the National Trust and Nostell Estate.

If you think you would like to volunteer for any of these jobs, please contact the chair, Sandy Clark, at fatcyclist@talktalk.net

We are also open to suggestions for new activities from volunteers prepared to run them.

Castleford Greenway – volunteers needed

In June 2014 Sustrans celebrated the completion of 1,000 miles of National Cycle Route in Yorkshire by opening the Castleford Greenway. As you will know from reading the last newsletter this was the first phase in a project which will link Castleford with the Trans Pennine Trail at Methley and the Riverside route to Wakefield. Lindsey Pashley has recently volunteered to co-ordinate maintenance on the Greenway.

She writes:



'To promote the use of Castleford Greenway, I am seeking volunteer Rangers to help with the maintenance of the route. The work of the rangers is likely to become even more important as the route develops and expands.

Monthly route maintenance will take place on the first Wednesday of each month, commencing on 1st February, at 10am. Volunteers need to meet at the Aketon Road entrance (near the Castleford swimming pool).

Additionally, anyone who has a flair for community engagement and is enthusiastic about the work of Sustrans, walking and cycling and loves to communicate with the public is needed to promote community awareness of the Greenway and encourage involvement. This will include developing and organizing family events which will take place throughout the year and have responsibility to market these events around the district.'

If you can help Lindsey, especially if you live in Castleford, why not turn up for the first session on 1st February.

Wakefield District Cycle Forum Guided Cycle Rides and Events 2017

January		February		March		April		May		June	
Sat 7 Steady Meet 10:15am	Darrington ROAD RIDE	Sat 4 Steady Meet 10:15	Darrington ROAD RIDE	Sat 4 Steady Meet 10:15	Darrington ROAD RIDE	Sat 1 Steady Meet 10:15	Darrington ROAD RIDE	BH Mon 1 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sat 3 Steady Meet 10:15	Darrington ROAD RIDE
Sun 8 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sat 11 Easy Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 5 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP WoW 21mils	Sun 2 Pedal in the Park Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sat 6 Steady Meet 10:15	Darrington ROAD RIDE	Sun 4 Pedal in the Park Meet 10:15	 Nostell
Sat 14 Easy Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 12 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Check our Website or Facebook for more details		Sat 8 Easy Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 7 Pedal in the Park Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sun 4 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP WoW 21mils
Sun 15 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sat 18 Steady Meet 10:15	Anglers CP	Sat 11 Easy Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 9 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sat 13 Easy Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Check our Website or Facebook for more details	
Sun 15 DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Arrive between 11am & 1pm	Anglers CP	Sun 19 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sun 12 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sat 15 Steady Meet 10:15	Anglers CP Roger Talbot Ride	Sun 14 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sat 10 Easy Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill
Tue 17 Steady Meet 12:45	Pontefracr Park	Sun 19 DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Arrive between 11am & 1pm	Anglers CP	Sat 18 Steady Meet 10:15	Anglers CP	Check our Website or Facebook for more details		Tue 16 Steady Meet 5:45	Pontefracr Park	Sun 11 Steady Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP
Sat 21 Steady Meet 10:15	Anglers CP	Sun 19 DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Arrive between 11am & 1pm	Anglers CP	Sun 19 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sun 16 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sat 20 Steady Meet 10:15	Anglers CP	Sat 17 Steady Meet 10:15	Anglers CP
Sun 22 Easy Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Tue 21 Steady Meet 12:45	Pontefracr Park	Sun 19 DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Arrive between 11am & 1pm	Anglers CP	Sun 16 DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Arrive between 11am & 1pm	Anglers CP	Sun 21 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sun 18 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell
Tuesday 24 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sat 25 Steady Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 19 1 to 3pm Basic Bike Maintenance Class To book email:- info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk	Anglers CP	Tue 18 Steady Meet 5:45	Pontefracr Park	Tuesday 23 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sun 18 DIY Bike Maintenance Drop-in Arrive between 11am & 1pm	Anglers CP
Sat 28 Steady Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 26 Easy Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sun 19 1 to 3pm Basic Bike Maintenance Class To book email:- info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk	Anglers CP	Sat 22 Steady Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sat 27 Steady Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Sun 20 Steady Meet 5:45	Pontefracr Park
Sun 29 Challenging Meet 9:15	Pugneys CP	Sun 26 Challenging Meet 9:15	Pugneys CP	Sun 21 Steady Meet 12:45	Pontefracr Park	Sun 23 Easy Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sun 28 Easy Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sat 24 Steady Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill
Check out our website or Facebook for extra rides and events		Our Pedal in the Park starts in April at Nostell		Sat 25 Steady Meet 10:15	Castleford Mill	Tuesday 25 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	BH Mon 29 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Sun 25 Easy Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP
				Sun 26 Easy Meet 10:15	Pugneys CP	Sun 30 Meet 9:15	Pugneys CP	Wed 31, 11am – 3pm Nostell Holiday Wednesday, Skills course, info stall & short rides	 Nostell	Sun 25 Challenging Meet 9:15	Pugneys CP
				Sun 26 Challenging Meet 9:15	Pugneys CP	Wakefield Wheel 38mile Challenging & Steady pace Check our Website or Facebook for more details www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk		Check out our website or Facebook for extra rides and events		Tuesday 27 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell
				Tuesday 28 Easy Meet 10:15	 Nostell	Get Cycling Keep Smiling		Get Cycling Keep Smiling			