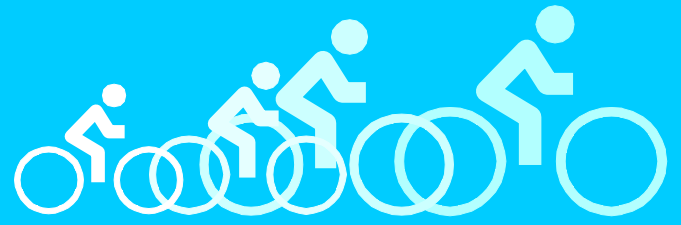


CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Newsletter of Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Edition No. 39

February 2018



IN THIS EDITION

Wakefield to Castleford Greenway

Nearly there

New Glasshoughton Bridleway

Another link in the chain

News Roundup

Bike Doctor sessions

Bike maintenance class

John Harvey ride

Thornes Park Cycle Hub

Ride leaders training

Grace ties the knot

Special rides

Parking charges at
Anglers

10 Years Old

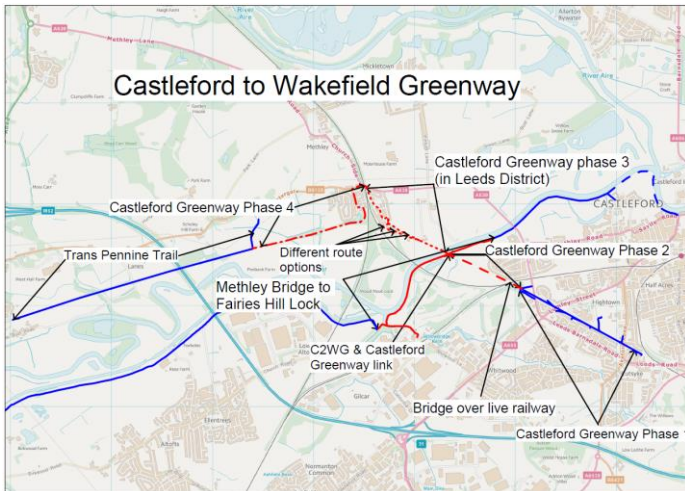
This year's AGM marks the 10th Birthday of Wakefield District Cycle Forum. Our aim when we set up as an independent group was to campaign to improve cycle infrastructure and to promote cycling in the Wakefield District. We had no idea at the time how far we would come and how broad our activities would be ten years on. We have become 'possibly the best voluntary cycling group in the world' (apologies Carlsberg).

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22nd March
Town Hall, Wakefield
6.45 pm

10th year as a community
voluntary group. Come along and
help us develop our programme
for the future.

Wakefield to Castleford Greenway



The diagram above illustrates the various phases of the scheme to link Castleford not only to Wakefield but to Methley and the Trans Pennine trail with a network of cycle paths. The Castleford Greenway was constructed a few years ago but we are now seeing the development of paths that will link this with a comprehensive network of traffic-free routes.

The section from **Methley Bridge to Fairies Hill Lock** is due to be complete by mid-February.



Some has already been tarmacked with the remaining section due for surfacing by 12th February. We will be looking to have a formal opening/launch event soon after.

In the last newsletter we reported that news was still awaited about funding for the **Bridge Over the Live Railway**.

Funding for this scheme has now been approved and the contract to do the work has been awarded with completion currently expected to be March 2019 but could be slightly earlier.



Castleford Greenway Phase 3

The photo above shows the point at which the Castleford to Wakefield Greenway meets the Castleford Greenway just before it crosses the River Calder on its way to Methley. Funding for this scheme has also been approved. A planning application for this scheme (and phases 2 and 4) will be submitted in the next few weeks. The route through Methley Junction hasn't yet been decided. Completion is currently expected to be March 2019 but could be slightly earlier.

Additional Information

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority have asked for possible transport schemes to be funded by the West Yorkshire Transport Fund should any current projects be delayed or not get delivered. The schemes that were removed from the City Connect programme due to overspending (including Castleford Greenway Phase 4) have been recommended for prioritisation (i.e. near to the top of the list!).
John Davis 15/01/18



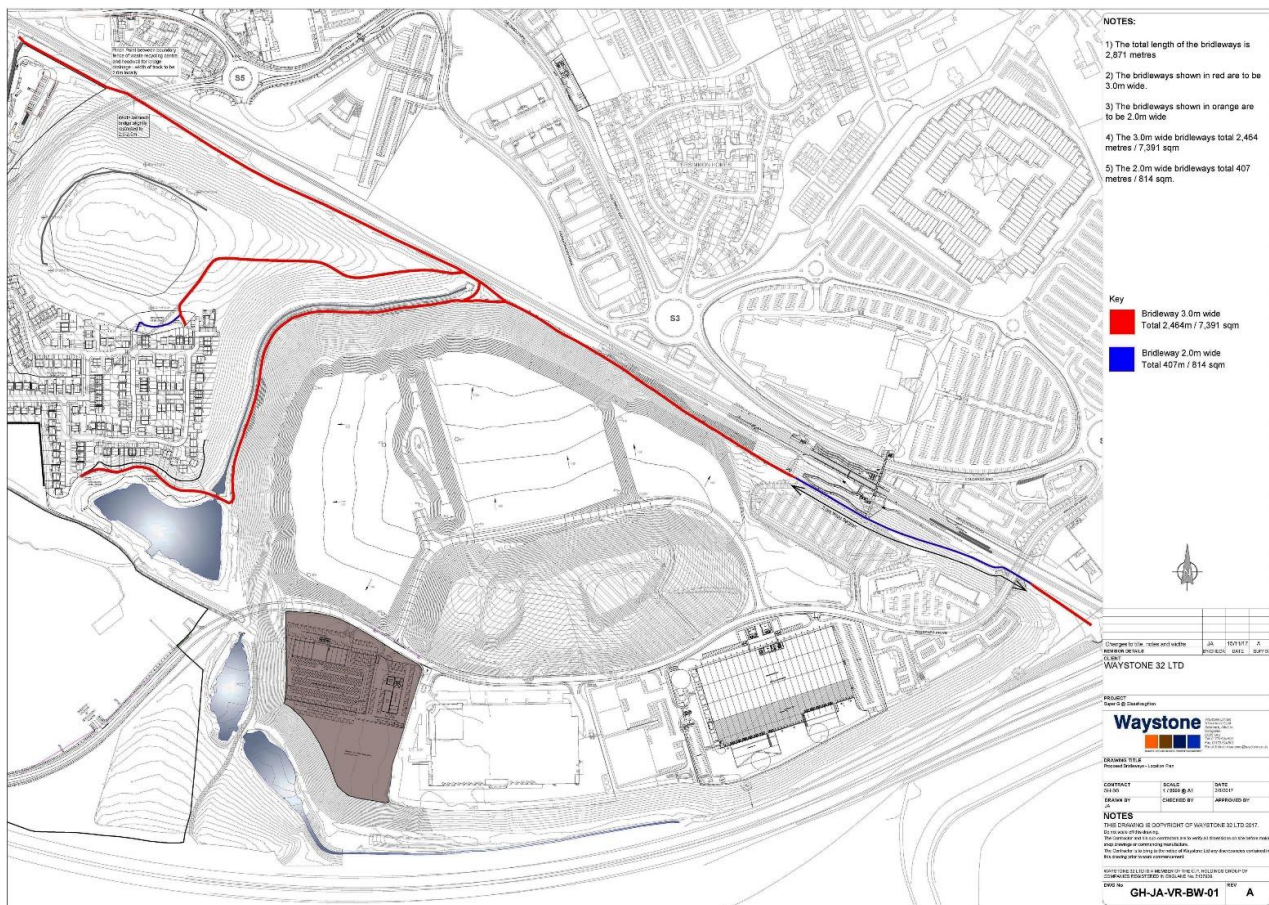
New Glasshoughton Bridleway

Waystones, who are the development company behind the Junction 32/Xcape/Summit Park sites at Grasshoughton, as part of the planning agreement for the site are required to build a new bridleway (the old one was built over) through the site. It is now nearly 10 years since Waystones, in consultation with the Council and the Cycle Forum agreed a route for that bridleway. Unfortunately delays and changes to the developments taking place around the proposed bridleway have delayed its construction.

Last year the Cycle Forum again met with Waystones and the Council to confirm the project. Waystones are now expecting to start construction in the Spring/Summer of this year. The bridleway will be 3 metres wide for most of its length with a small section only being 2 metres, where the land available does not allow the wider space. The surface will be similar to that used by the Cycle Forum on the Chevet Branch Line and other paths which we have built.

The new bridleway will link the existing cycle route through Pontefract Park to the level crossing at Cutsyke, the Castleford Greenway and the signed route, some of which is traffic-free, into Castleford Town Centre. With the completion of the projects reported on page 2 of this newsletter, a major priority of the Cycle Forum since its birth will have been realised.

In addition to the links with existing paths in Pontefract and Castleford the bridleway will link into the new housing development to the north-west of Summit Park



News Roundup

Bike Doctor drop-in sessions

Bike Doctor drop-in sessions continue on the third Sunday of the month.

The coming sessions are:

Sunday 18th February, Anglers Country Park,

11 am till 1 pm

Sunday 18th March, Anglers Country Park,

11 am till 1 pm

Sunday 15th April, Anglers Country Park,

11 am till 1 pm

Booking is **not** required for these sessions.



Basic Bike Maintenance Class

Our first maintenance class this year will take place: Sunday 18th March, 1 till 3 pm, Anglers Country Park

Booking is required for this Class. To book email info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk

And make sure the Bike Doctor does not have an empty classroom.

John Harvey Ride

The last newsletter reported on the untimely death of the 'irreplaceable' John Harvey. John's funeral was held in Pontefract Crematorium on 16th November, with standing room only. The mourners represented a cross section of the people and groups with whom John was associated. From his family, neighbours to the farming community with whom he worked, many of whom were his close friends, and of course the Cycle Forum which was represented in force.

The occasion was both sad and joyous. We found some things out about John's early life that proved that he was even more intriguing and multi-talented than we already knew. David Leigh delivered a wonderful eulogy on behalf of the Cycle Forum, which we will reproduce in our annual report, and the music and photographs chosen to celebrate John's life reflected his love of cycling and his cheerful disposition.



We will continue to celebrate John's contribution to the Cycle Forum's work on an annual basis by dedicating one of our rides to his memory. He was closely associated with Queens Mill in Castleford, where he not only helped organised our rides but assisted the Heritage Trust with their work in developing the Mill as an important community asset. John's birthday would have been in May so the steady ride from the Mill every May will be the John Harvey ride.

The John Harvey Ride
Saturday 26 May 2018
Meet 10.15 am
Queens Mill Castleford

Get the date in your diary.



Thornes Park Cycle Hub

2018 sees the Cycle Forum move its Pugneys rides to Thornes Park. The steady ride will continue on the 2nd Sunday of the month and the easy on the 4th Sunday. We have now taken charge of some bicycles which will be based at Thornes Park and so this venue will be added to the hubs where we have free loan bikes for people coming on our rides.

There are many more cycling activities going on at Thornes run by other groups, including disability cycling with adapted bikes, and a women's group, so why not check them out.

Adult cycle training

A regular feature of the activities there is the Adult Cycle Training sponsored by City Connect, which is an organisation supported by West Yorkshire Combined Authorities. Training is provided at different levels, from the absolute beginner through to the more confident cyclist, so there is a course for you.

Courses run through February and March on Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

To book a session go to

www.cyclecityconnect.co.uk/cycletraining

Ride Leaders Training

For many of our members and friends our rides programme is at the heart of our activity and like all our work it depends on our dedicated group of volunteers. We take pride in the knowledge that this group of volunteers is experienced in the rides we provide and trained to an acceptable standard. To that end we are continually renewing the pool of leaders and providing training for newcomers.

At the end of October last year we ran the latest training course for new ride leaders at Pugneys Country Park. 7 new leaders were trained and, as you can see from the photo, a happy bunch they proved to be. Our new volunteers will help strengthen our teams at Thornes Park, Anglers Country Park, Nostell, Queens Mill and Darrington.

Our thanks go to the public health team at Wakefield Council, for hosting the event, and to Ken Woodhouse from Pedal Ready in Sheffield for delivering the training.

If you would like to join our team of ride leaders and helpers please let us know by emailing:

info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk



Grace Ties the Knot

Grace is the welcoming face that cyclists love to see when they pop into Squires Tearoom at Anglers Country Park. She is so popular and welcoming to all cyclists that the Cycle Forum awarded her the special Faceless Trophy last year. Previous winners have been the Bike Doctors, John Harvey and the Leigh Family, so you can tell the exalted company that she is in.

Grace was married on Friday 12th January and the Cycle Forum had a special ride out to her wedding in Royston. We were able to greet her as she left the church.



We wish her all the best in her new married life.



Special rides

Our rides programme benefits from the regularity of our rides from our four cycle hubs in the district, plus our Pontefract Park and Darrington rides. So, if it is the third Saturday of the month that means it is the steady ride from Anglers Country Park. But we do also have many 'special' rides to break up our regular pattern and add a bit of variety.

This year we are no longer running a regular 'Challenging' ride but for those of you who still want a challenge we will be running three special Wakefield Wheel rides, a 38-mile challenge, from Thornes Park.

The first of these is on 1st April (no April Fools allowed).

Wakefield Wheel, Sunday 1st April, 9.15, Thornes Park

If you don't quite feel up to that challenge (or like me won't get up that early on a Sunday) maybe a Wonders of Wakefield ride is more up your street. This picturesque 21-mile trail is a treat and we will be running three rides, from Anglers, Thornes and Nostell, in the summer, June, July and September respectively.

You would be mad not to join in with one of these.



The Halloween ride has now become one of our treasured traditions. To join in you must carry bright lights (although I have always

suspected that those doing the ride must not have all their 'head' lights working properly) as it all takes place in the dark.

I can't imagine how spooky some of the tracks are (I can tell you as I have never been daft enough to do it) but 13 people turned out last Halloween with suitably spooky attire to complete the ride, pub stop included.

We will of course be continuing the tradition in 2018.

Our headline photograph on this newsletter was taken at last year's Santa ride at Nostell. Around 20 people turned up for the ride despite the wet, dull weather, including some newcomers to our rides. They were rewarded with a mince pie and hot drink when the ride called in at Squires Tearoom at Anglers and the sun came out on our way back.

The ride was filmed by the National Trust as it left and returned to Nostell and footage is likely to be used in their Christmas promotional video in 2018.

The Santa ride has proved so popular that we are introducing an additional Santa ride this year at Thornes Park.

Parking Charges at Anglers Country Park

Last month we reported that Wakefield Council were consulting on a proposal to make changes to their parking charges, including imposing new parking charges at Anglers Country Park.

Many of our members got involved in objecting to these charges but to date we have had no official decision. We will of course inform you as soon as we know the outcome.

