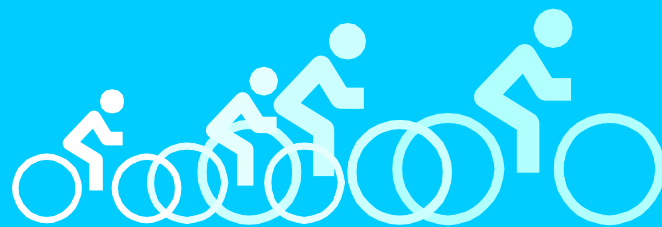


# CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Edition No. 36

| May 2017



## IN THIS EDITION

### DIY Maintenance Sessions

Popular sessions continue

### New Cycle Trail Opens at Nostell

Woodland trails launch day

### Wakefield Tandem Club

Volunteers needed

### New Cycle Path

Barracks field Pontefract

### Cycle Festival

10<sup>th</sup> Year celebrations

### Summer of Cycling

Forum summer events

### Wakefield Eastern Relief Road

New road with cycle path

### Tombola Queens

Isabelle and Nicola need your donations

### Celebrating Cycling

Thornes Park event

# Busy Cycling Summer

The work of Wakefield District Cycle Forum is a four seasons affair but there is no doubt that things heat up in the summer sun (we hope). 2017 will be no exception as you will see from all the events outlined in this newsletter.

All our events need volunteers to make them happen so if you can do come along and help. It is always good fun.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations Begin

2017 is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Wakefield District Cycle Forum (who would believe it?). To start the celebrations we are holding a Cycle Festival on:

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**  
**11am till 4pm**  
**Nostell**

We are grateful to Wakefield Council for sponsoring this event and to the National Trust at Nostell for hosting it. Full details of the event can be found inside this newsletter

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> June, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July, Anglers Country Park, 11 am till 1 pm



Booking is not required for these sessions.

## Launch of New Cycle Path at Nostell

In the last newsletter we reported on the construction of two new woodland cycle trails in the parkland at Nostell Priory. We can now confirm that the National Trust will be officially launching the paths on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Wakefield District Cycle Forum will, of course, be there. We will have an information gazebo and will be leading guided rides round the new trails. The Bike Doctor will also be present so you might want to bring your bike along for a health check to make sure that you can put in lots of safe summer miles.

If you don't have a bike, or can't get it to Nostell, don't worry, there will be plenty of bikes to borrow, free of charge, so that you can enjoy a ride round the parkland.

And if you can help on the day please join us from around 10 am till we finish, even if only for part of that time.



### Nostell Cycle Trail Launch

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May

11am till 4pm

Information, Bike Doctor, Guided Rides and lots of fun.

Make sure you are there



## OPEN COUNTRY'S WAKEFIELD TANDEM CLUB

We have been approached by a charity which helps people with disabilities enjoy the countryside. They are looking for cyclists who will help with their Tandem Club. The details are set out below, so if you would like to help do get in touch with them.

### Weekday evenings, starting June 2017

Join Open Country, the award-winning charity (1107331) that has over 25 years' experience in helping disabled people enjoy the countryside. Our new Wakefield Tandem Club will enjoy rides are up to 20 miles long, in the gorgeous Yorkshire countryside. We'll meet in Thornes Park, Thornes Road, Wakefield, probably on Wednesdays, but this is up for discussion with our riders! We'll be out from 6 until 9 pm, usually with a pub stop thrown in! We are keen to meet ambulant disabled back riders (stokers) or non-disabled volunteer 'pilots'. Join us – it's fun!

Tel: 01423 507227 • [info@opencountry.org.uk](mailto:info@opencountry.org.uk) • [www.opencountry.org.uk](http://www.opencountry.org.uk)



## New Cycle Path for Pontefract

Wakefield Council have now completed the construction of a new path around the field opposite the Barracks in Pontefract. Outlined in green here the path links Wakefield Road with Mill Hill Lane. The path is of high quality, with a smooth tarmacked surface and wide enough to comfortably accommodate cyclist and walkers.

It will prove a good safe link to Kings School on Mill Hill Lane. Cyclist will also now be able to find a quiet route between the south and west of the town and avoid the busy Townend junction.

The project was first raised by WDCF at a liaison meeting with Wakefield Council and paid for by a small budget which the council lays aside each year for the Cycle Forum to determine how it is used. This path required two years of that expenditure but we are confident it will be a valuable addition to the districts cycle infrastructure.



# 10th Year Celebrations Cycle Festival

Nostell National Trust

Sunday 2 July 2017, 11am - 4pm

Wakefield District



Cycle Forum

Guided Rides - enjoy the parkland on a ride round the new woodland cycle trails  
Cycle Skills Course - practice your cycle skills in the grandeur of the vista facing the house  
Bring your own bike or borrow one of ours

Bike Doctor – get your bike checked out and ready for a summer of cycling fun  
Cycling information – maps leaflets and advice on cycling in the Wakefield District

Plus:

Adapted Bikes

Vintage Bikes

Bike Shop

Roller Bikes

Health Improvement Team

Prizes!!!

**And it's all free**

*Parking £4 for non National Trust members*

The Unrideable Bike!  
Can you rise to the challenge?  
Come along and have a go.



National  
Trust

wakefieldcouncil  
working for you



Wakefield District  
  
Cycle Forum

# Enjoy a Summer of Cycling Fun in 2017

## Guided rides for all abilities

No matter what your cycling ability we have a guided ride for you. From a short ride round the parkland at Nostell to longer rides to build your cycling confidence, we will take you along at a pace you find comfortable. We ride at the pace of the least experienced and don't leave anyone behind. We use traffic-free routes with some minor roads. And you can borrow a bike at most venues if you can't get your bike there. For full rides list visit [www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk](http://www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk)



## Active Wednesdays at Nostell Priory, 11am - 3pm

31 May, 26 July, 2, 9, 1, 23, 30 August

Cycle skills course, rides round the woodland cycle trails, information maps and advice.

Bring your own bike or borrow one of ours



## DIY Bike Maintenance Sunday Sessions - Anglers Country Park

11am - 1pm. 18 June, 16 July, 17 September

If your bike needs some care and attention bring it along to these sessions and our Bike Doctor will coach you through repairs and maintenance.

No need to book just pop along with your bike

**Wakefield District Cycle Forum** is a voluntary organisation which promotes cycling and works to improve cycling infrastructure in the Wakefield District.

We can only carry on our work with the help of our volunteers.

So if you are interested in improving the lot of cyclists, and those who would like to be cyclists, why not join our group of volunteers

Find out more about us at [www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk](http://www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk)

**All our events are free!!!**



## Wakefield Eastern Relief Road



The latest road development in Wakefield is the Wakefield Eastern Relief Road (WERR) which links Doncaster Road, near Heath Common, with Aberford Road, near Pinderfields hospital. In a first for Wakefield the new road has a dedicated, segregated cycle path. The WERR is 5.5km long, boasts the longest single span bridge in Wakefield and the first new river crossing in Wakefield in over 100 years. The new £33m road provides an essential road link between the A642 and A638. It will help to reduce congestion and pollution within the city.

To celebrate the official opening Cycle Forum members turn out in their droves on 27<sup>th</sup> April to be the first to make use of this new facility.

It seems however that it has not taken long for strong views to be raised about the cycle paths. Here is a selection of comments from our Facebook page:

*'What do people think about the cycle paths on the new Wakefield Eastern Relief road?*

*I found it confusing at first as the pedestrian and cycle paths converge and separate frequently and there are too many blue signs indicating which is which. The cycle path also changes to the opposite side of the road without any crossing point. This seems dangerous.*

*I suspect any 'serious' cyclist would just stick to the road'*

*'Used the road personally, much more preferable surface, no road crossing required if ridden sensibly this is the safer and smoother option. The path is great for inexperienced users'*

*'Some people are only happy when they're moaning! This is the best cycle provision in the district to date. Progress by stealth'*

*'I think it's great, yep some iffy bits but it's nice to see cyclists catered for.'*

*'It is the best path WMDC have built so far. However it is not up to modern standards. It still has standard, badly designed, give way to all other users, junctions that are quite dangerous. The crossing from one side of the road to the other, that seems completely unnecessary, couldn't be in a worse place at the bottom of a steep hill. Come on WMDC, you'll have to do better if you REALLY want to get people on their bikes.'*

In the cycle forum annual report for 2014/15 we reported:

*'Discussions [with the council] have also taken place to try and improve cycle facilities on a number of major road developments . . . [including] Wakefield Eastern Relief Road. We will judge the success of these consultations when the roads have been completed.'*

Your editor has looked back at our suggestion for improved cycle facilities on WERR and is saddened to report that all seem to have been ignored.



## Isabelle and Nicola: The Tombola Queens

In the last newsletter we printed a profile of David Leigh, one of our ever-present volunteers. Well, he is not the only one of the Leigh family to grace Wakefield District Cycle Forum events with their presence. David's wife, Isabelle, has always had an interest in our rides and events but a couple of years ago started turning up more frequently on rides and to help out at events.

The reason Isabelle gave for this increase in her forum activities, 'If you can't beat them, join them'. This, of course, was a reference to David's increasing activity on forum rides as a leader and participant. In 2016, however, Isabelle became a fixture at our summer events. We have a fairly small band of volunteers on whom we depend to staff our events and Isabelle is now one of our most active.

But not only did Isabelle come along to help but she brought her daughter, Nicola (and grandson Ben). So now we have a Leigh family contingent present at nearly everything we do.

An important feature of our events throughout the summer is our tombola, which has become an important source of income. Last year we raised over £700 at events through the tombola. This year Isabelle and Nicola have agreed to organise this aspect of our events. They will take charge of collecting prizes and running the tombola on the day. We are, of course, dependent on the generosity of members who donate prizes and you can all help with this.



**If you have prizes that you would like to donate please email us at [info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk) and we will arrange to collect them.**

## Celebrating Cycling

To celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire and to kick off the 'summer' of cycling in Wakefield District, Wakefield Council held a celebratory event in Thornes Park on 29<sup>th</sup> April. WDCF was there with our information gazebo, cycle skills course and Bike Doctor.

13 volunteer turned out to help with our activities and there were 64 participants on our skills course.



The next bike 'celebration' will be our 10<sup>th</sup> year event at Nostell. Before that we will have a 'Holiday Wednesday' event at Nostell on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Please join us at these events.

