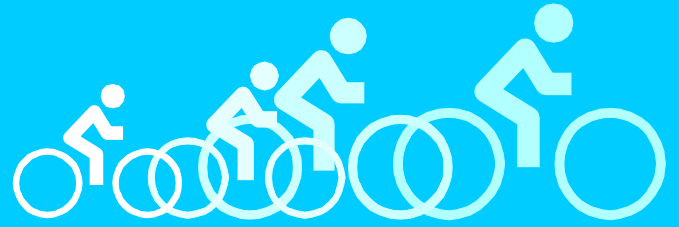


CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Edition number 10

September 2011



IN THIS EDITION

Sun Shines on Bike Week

Report and pictures from this year's events

Wakefield Bikeathon

Enter the sponsored ride or volunteer to help

Northern Rail Campaign

Forum volunteer help in cycle/rail campaign

The Wakefield Wheel is Official

Signs go up on cycle route round Wakefield

Campaign Update

Hemsworth path is re-opened

Wheels for All

Cycling for all abilities

Another Successful Bike Week

The photograph above shows a few of the satisfied participants in our bike week events. As usual the big weekend event was held at Nostell Priory and Parkland on 18 and 19 June with rides, a skills course, bygone bikes relay race, the bike doctor and the new pump course.

More details and photos of the weekend can be found inside this Newsletter

A Dream Come True

Our vice-chair David Keighley is the most active of the Cycle Forum volunteers and it is due to him that we have been able to produce cycle maps of the district including the map of the Wakefield Wheel. Not satisfied with the map on its own he has been campaigning to have the 'Wheel' signed.

David's dream has now become a reality. At the beginning of August he organised a number of volunteers to put up signs which will compliment the new signs erected by Wakefield Council.

This is a good example of the council and the cycle forum working in partnership and we hope it is a sign of things to come.

The Sun Shines on Bike Week

June is always a big month in the Cycle Forum's calendar. Since the demise of the Wakefield Metropolitan District Council's Cycle Officer and the establishment of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum as an independent voluntary organisation it has been down to us to organise the events which celebrate Bike Week in the Wakefield District.

As usual the big event was at Nostell Priory and Parkland over the weekend of 18/19 June and as you can see from the photograph below it was a bright sunny weekend. Over 200 people took part in the events organised by the Forum, which included a cycle skills course and guided rides.



Getting ready for a guided ride

A new addition to the programme was the Pump Track which has recently been built in the woodlands within the Parkland. This is a small but challenging circular course where participants have to complete the circle without pedaling.



The 'bike doctor' has a go on the pump track



A young participant on the Pump Track

A fascinating array of bicycles was on display. Bygone Bikes provided an exhibition of vintage bicycles, including a Penny-farthing and a Boneshaker, which looked magnificent with the Priory as a backdrop to the display. At the other end of the spectrum, Wheels for All provided a selection of adapted cycles for people with disabilities and different needs. As you can see from the photo below of the day, the Forum Chair and Vice-chair were among the participants enjoying a ride on one of these bikes.



A great wee team

One of the well established highpoints of the weekend is the relay race. It is a fun event that is not meant to be taken too seriously. This of course does not prevent the competitive spirit shining through in some of the teams. The team representing the Cycle Forum cannot be accused of over-competitiveness, however, as they were eliminated in the first round. (continued on next page)

The Sun Shines on Bike Week (continued)

We were delighted to welcome again a team of Wakefield District councilors who managed, as they did two years ago, to get through to the final. They were not good enough however to compete with a new entry for this year from Sport4U. They have been joining the Forum at a number of events this year and had entered two teams one of which emerged as the winner.



*The winning relay team.
Osama Ahmed, Majid Sadiq, Avais Ahmed and
Nouman Bhatti*

Our now traditional rides from Pontefract and Wakefield Kirkgate both attracted a good turnout and were blessed with fine weather.

An addition to the programme this year was a cycle maintenance course. This was run by our 'bike doctor', Graham West, and received rave reviews from those present. Once again we have to thank the National Trust for allowing us to use Nostell Priory as a venue.



Learning from the master at the cycle maintenance course

This was the second of two courses run by Graham and they have proved so popular that we will be running further courses next year.

Interestingly, even though it was a much lower key event than the weekend at Nostell, the final event of the week at Anglers Country Park Green Living Day proved a busy day for the bike doctor who checked and repaired over a dozen cycles throughout the day.



*The youngest participant on the skill course at
Anglers Green Living Day*

Thanks are due to all of the volunteers who gave their time willingly. We have once again organised a Bike Week to be proud of. It was hard work but worth it. Next time let us make it even more impressive.



Enjoying an ice cream in the sunshine



Bikeathon 2011

This year's sponsored cycle ride on behalf of Leukemia and Lymphoma Research will take place on 2nd October. If you wish to enter please see the details on the poster below.

The cycle forum will be assisting with the bike doctor in attendance to help if needed. The organisers are looking for volunteer marshals to help on the day so if any members can spare a few hours to help this good cause please get in touch with the number below.



Wakefield Bikeathon

Sunday 2 October 2011
Start time: 10am

Kettlethorpe High School, Wakefield
13 & 26 mile routes



Sign Up Now!

For more information
contact us on the details below

Tel 01924 254383

bikeathon@beatbloodcancers.org
beatbloodcancers.org/bikeathon

Northern Rail Cycling Promotion

Last year, as a result of a grant from the previous government, Northern Rail installed cycle parking at most of their stations. This included the Cycle Hub at Leeds station.

As the next step in this programme Northern Rail decide to roll out a series of events at stations in West Yorkshire this summer aimed at encouraging people to combine rail travel with cycling to the station. One of the stations targeted was Sandal and

Agbrigg in Wakefield, which is ideally suited to combining rail and cycle as it has a new covered cycle parking facility and some lockable cycle parking, as well as being linked to Walton and Crofton by traffic-free cycle paths.



Commuters talk cycling with Forum volunteers

Volunteers from Wakefield District Cycle Forum helped with the event by distributing leaflets before the event to publicise it and by giving advice on the day about routes that people might take to the station. Commuters who came to the Forum's stall in the station car/cycle park were given an information pack and could make themselves a smoothie on a cycle powered smoothie machine.



Northern Rail will be monitoring cycle use over the next few months to see if the campaign has had an effect. Cycling to Sandal and Agbrigg station would become a more attractive prospect if the proposed cycle track from Crofton through Walton Country Park (see report in May newsletter) were to become a reality.

The event did attract a good deal of attention from passengers returning on their commute from Leeds and three even took the step of joining the Forum.



The Wakefield Wheel is Official

It has taken nearly three years to achieve but now the 'Wakefield Wheel' cycle route has received the official approval of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Thanks to the persistence and patience of the Forum's Chair and Vice-Chair and, crucially, the intervention of the Council's Chief Executive we now have a council approved signed route circling Wakefield.

The 'Wheel' was first perceived by the Forum Vice-chair, David Keighley, and the production of the Wakefield Wheel map was one of the first projects completed by the Forum as a result of a grant from the Lottery. A second, shorter route named 'The Wonders of Wakefield' was an offshoot from this project and was also produced as a pocket sized map. Both maps have proved very popular with cyclists in the district.



Following a meeting earlier this year between Forum representatives and the Chief Executive of the Council, agreement was reached to sign the route. The Council have provided the funds to purchase the signs and erected those that needed new, dedicated posts while Forum volunteers have fixed the majority of the signs to existing street furniture and existing signposts. If you are doing the route you still need to take the advice laid out in the map that the route is best done in an anti-clockwise direction as, so far, we have only been able to sign it this way round.



Robert thinks his bike is a strimmer!!

David Keighley has to be thanked for organising the signing, which he did with help from Des Hampshire, Robert Clegg and Peter Rowbothom.

Hopefully this is only the first of many cycle routes that will result from co-operation between Forum and Council.



Des hammers it home

Sometimes patience and perseverance are rewarded.

The Forum is hoping that we will have an official launch of the 'Wheel' in October. We will let you have the details when they are finalised.

Campaign Update

It is good to be able to report that our campaign to persuade Network Rail to reopen a path which is part of an off-road link between Hemsworth and Moorthorpe (see March newsletter) has been fruitful. In June this year Network Rail agreed that the land, which it had previously been agreed should transfer to Network Rail ownership, could remain in Council ownership. This removes any objection to the through route.

The Forum is now pursuing means by which the path (shown below) will be fully opened a suitable for cycle use.





WHEELS FOR ALL



CYCLING FUN FOR EVERYONE ON OUR FLEET OF ADAPTED BIKES!

The bikes are especially good for people with disabilities and differing needs

Come and join our FREE cycle sessions!

(Trained Leaders present/ Helmets provided/Children to be accompanied)

HAVERCROFT & RYHILL SPORTS & YOUTH CENTRE (WF4 2BD)

OPEN SESSION HELD ON THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10.00 - 12.00AM

SESSIONS COMING UP:

SATURDAY 10th September 2011

Sessions are held outside if it's fine, inside if it's wet and cold!

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Call: Havercroft Sports Centre :01226 723659