

# CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

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# Cycling Gets Sexy

The Grand Depart of the 'Tour' is the latest high-profile cycling event to capture the attention of the media after British success in the last two 'Tours' and the London Olympics. As you will see from the articles in this newsletter, it would seem that as a result cycling has become a 'sexy' pastime and our volunteers in the Cycle Forum have been kept busy meeting the expectation of an ever increasing demand on our services

## New Greenway Opens in Castleford

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June saw the official opening of a new cycle path on the site of a disused railway line in Cutsyke in Castleford. Around a mile in length and connecting into a number of residential and leisure sites the new 'Greenway' is the latest development in what is intended as a network of traffic-free routes in and around Castleford.

The 'Greenway' was officially opened by Brian Robinson, the first British rider to win a stage of the Tour de France, and happened just a week before the 'Tour' left Leeds on the first leg of the Grand Depart.

Read more on this and other developments in Castleford on pages 5 and 7.

# Grand Depart Legacy

As has become the fashion with big sporting events such as the Olympics, the Tour de France appearance in Yorkshire this year has inspired a need to ensure that the *Grand Depart* creates a 'Cycling Legacy'. Wakefield Council has joined in the enthusiasm surrounding the 'Tour' and set up a Cycle Legacy Steering Group to develop ideas to contribute to this 'legacy'. The Cycle Forum has been involved in the group and it has already proved useful in bringing together council departments to act in unison around the development of cycling in the district. Wakefield District Cycle Forum decided it should set itself targets for its contribution to the 'legacy' and below we report on our progress so far.

## 100 guided cycle rides

In 2013 the Forum had 79 guided rides so this was a considerable step-up from anything we had done before. By the end of the first six months however we had gone through the 50% mark of our target with 57 rides.

## Update and produce 'Cycling for Everyone in Wakefield' booklet

Our original booklet is not only out of date but out of print. We need to find funding to produce an even more comprehensive booklet as a guide to new and existing cyclist of the cycling facilities in the district. We are seeking funding from the 'legacy group' and hope that this time we can involve other organisation in the design and production of the booklet.

## Sign and improve our 21 mile Wonders of Wakefield (WoW) cycle trail

With funding from Wakefield Council and volunteer labour (our secretary Richard Denbigh mostly) we have now completed the signing of this route. Our volunteer path maintenance group has also been busy improving sections of the route on Nostell Estate paths and along the river bank near Belle Veiw.



## 1,000 members

Due to a phenomenal influx of members already this year we are close to achieving this target with over 960 members.

## Surface the permissive cycle paths on Nostell Estate to form a 12 mile mostly traffic-free route from Nostell Priory to Pugneys Water Park via Anglers Country Park and Newmillerdam

Last year the Cycle Forum went a long way to achieving this by completing the 5 kilometres of the Chevet Branch Line but a few smaller stretches of this route still need surfacing to make them 'all-weather' paths. Our volunteer path maintenance group have completed work on some of the shorter section, which are now much improved, and we have been seeking funds to complete the longer sections. We may have to utilise our recently established Path Fund to complete this part of our 'legacy' targets. See the report on page 3 for more about this.

As you can see we are well on our way to achieving our 'legacy' ambitions but we still have a lot of hard work to complete. We hope you can help us in our efforts by volunteering to help with our campaigning, leading rides, staffing our events or by contributing to our Path Fund (see page 3).



## DIY Maintenance Days

DIY maintenance Nostell Priory.

Service your bike while being supervised by our Bike Doctor.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
between 2.30 pm and 3.30pm

No need to book just come along

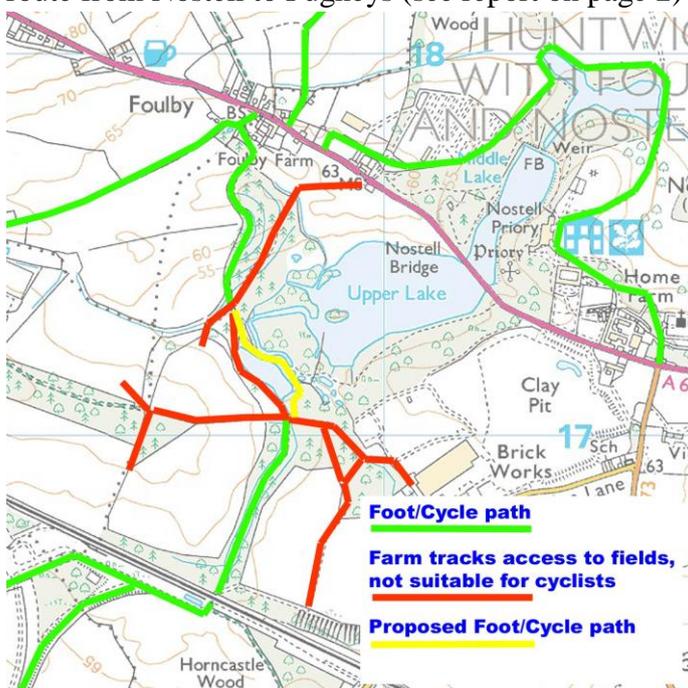


## Cycle Path Fund

At the beginning of April members received a request to contribute to Wakefield District Cycle Forum's Cycle Path Fund, which was established at this year's AGM, and which will be used to develop new and improve existing cycle paths in the district.

This fund is aimed at continuing and improving the work that the Cycle Forum has undertaken in the last year to enhance the provision of cycle paths in the district with a view to developing a continuous network of traffic-free cycle routes.

So far we have received donations of just over £1,000 but if we are to fulfil our ambition of a surfaced traffic-free route from Nostell to Pugneys (see report on page 2) we may need to use our path fund and at its existing level it



will not be sufficient to do that. We have managed to gain the agreement of the landowner to put a new path through the Nostell Estate avoiding an existing path which becomes impassable in the winter due to heavy farm traffic use. We have so far been unsuccessful in gaining a grant for the necessary work and may have to resort to the use of our Path Fund. The path in question is shown by the yellow line on the adjacent map. We hope that you will agree that our plans would bring about a very useful addition to the path network in the district and if you have not already donated to the fund you might now do so.

We know times are hard for many people but we hope you can still give us a donation, however small.

Send your cheques made out to Wakefield District Cycle Forum to **Sandy Clark, 16 Beechwood Avenue, Pontefract, WF8 4ED**. Alternatively hand your donation to Sandy or David Keighley at any of our rides or events.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.



## Record Number of Rides and Events

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter our rides programme is on course to outdo last year's record numbers and attendance. With 57 rides under our belts by the end of June we have seen an average attendance of over 20 per ride which is an increase of 25% on last year, which in turn was double the year before. Over 350 separate individuals have come along to enjoy our rides, more than the whole of 2013, the vast majority of whom are newcomers.

Most encouraging is the increase in the number of women attending rides which, at nearly 42% of the total, is a big improvement on the 33% of women that we have historically attracted. Part of the reason for this may be the introduction of an 'entry level' ride at Anglers Country Park. Here the riders go on a flat, short ride round the lake before deciding if that was enough for them or if they would like to go on a 'second' short ride in Haw Park Woods. The ride is entirely traffic-free and suitable for the absolute novice. The ride has proved so popular that we are considering a similar 'entry level' ride at Pugneys Water Park for our Autumn/Winter programme.

The Cycle Forum has been out and about in the district giving out information on cycling, doing Bike Doctor sessions, and rolling out our skills course. We attended an event in Lupset in April to launch the BiLi project, which you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter. This is an exciting and challenging project to get families more active and there certainly was a lot of enthusiasm with 46 people doing our skills course and 18 bikes given health checks.

We were also at events in Outwood, Pontefract, Pugneys and the Hepworth Gallery and continue to use Nostell Priory as our main base for 'cycle days'. This years Armed Forces Day at Nostell Priory proved to be as busy as previously with over 150 people participated in the skills course.

Nostell also hosted a very successful 'Tour de Wakefield' day in June. The Forum teamed up with British Cycling and the National Trust to organise a fun day of cycle related activities. As well as a guided ride round the Wonders of Wakefield route and our skills course and Bike Doctor, Cycle Technology from Wakefield were present. An exciting new attraction at the event was the presence of the Faceless Company. This art group spent the day getting people to create cycle art, which proved very popular. So of the results were quite stunning as you can see from the photograph.

As always we need lots of volunteers to ensure that our rides and events run smoothly, so if you feel like a bit of fun and a great deal of satisfaction why not volunteer.



Contact us at [info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk)



# Castleford Greenway Opening

Sustrans has been busy in the Wakefield District recently and one of their projects was on the disused railway line in Cutsyke, Castleford where they have created a new 'Greenway'.

It is hoped that the mile long traffic-free route will be the beginning of a route from Castleford to Methley, and the Trans Pennine Trail, along the old railway line which is owned by Sustrans.

The opening was also a celebration of 1,000 miles of the National Cycle Network in Yorkshire.



The event was attended by Sustrans staff and volunteers who were joined by the local Heritage group, police and fire service representatives, Go:Cycling and a number of other local organisations. The TV cameras were also there and gave coverage on the evening 'Look North' news bulletin.



The Cycle Forum ride from Junction 32 that morning arrived at the 'Greenway' in time for the 'cutting of the ribbon' and swelled the ranks of the celebration with a procession of 28 cyclists.



The opening ceremony was completed by the unveiling of the Sustrans way marker. In the week before the Grand Depart hit Yorkshire it was a great cope to have Brian Robinson, the first British rider to complete the Tour de France and the first British rider to win a stage of the Tour, perform the opening ceremony.



## LETTERS PAGE

*As you will see below on of our members has suggested we start a letters page to allow members to express views through this newsletter. I hope some of you will join in and let us have your thoughts for the next edition.*

I was recently out on my bike cycling in Wakefield District when I came across two situations that I felt I would like to draw to your attention. I pondered as to how I might raise these issues, and thought that as a member of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum it would be useful to be able to write to the editor of this newsletter. May I suggest that having a letters page would allow other members to include their concerns or questions and is a good means of communication. I submit the first such letter?

John Matthews

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To the Editor:

Whilst riding from Horbury Bridge back to Crofton I encountered two issues I would like to raise in the Newsletter. Firstly the canal path from Horbury Bridge to the Navigation Public house is a very difficult section to cycle along. I realised as I rode along the path that if I was to fall off my bike I would have two choices, fall into the canal, or onto a rusty barbed wire fence. Not much choice.

This is a very well used section of path and although some progress is being made on the waterfront route around Castleford it seemed to me the Horbury end of the waterfront route had seen no improvement at all. Are there any plans for improvement of this section of the waterfront in the near future?

Secondly I enclose a picture taken in the Walton Colliery Nature Park looking at the closed off bridge under the railway. There has been much discussion within the Forum about developments which would open up this route and save cyclist traveling along the road from Crofton to Walton along a difficult section of public road.



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On 24<sup>th</sup> May, towards the end of one of our rides from Junction 32, a fellow cyclist had the misfortune to run through what he thought to be a puddle. Turns out it was a six inch deep pothole which left him catapulting over his bike handles landing face down on the road. After recovering from the shock he came around to discover a line of blood pouring down his face. A worrying time for everybody!

When the paramedic arrived, he quickly identified the head injury. You may be wondering if he was wearing a helmet at this point to which the answer is yes, however you may be surprised to know this was the actual cause of the bleeding! His visor had snapped off from his helmet during the impact and caused him to need ten stitches above his eye.

The paramedic said that, although helmets undoubtedly save lives on the roads, it is not the first time he has seen similar injuries caused by the visors, even saying he had seen eyes gouged out by them!

As you can imagine, I took my visor off as soon as I got home as did Jeff and Sandy once they heard the news.

These visors are simply attached with Velcro to the front of your helmet which, during a serious crash such as this, is not enough to prevent the visor from coming loose and potentially causing greater risk than the crash itself.

*Moral of the story; beware of such visors and the potential risks they can cause. With no obvious uses it begs me to question why they are even included with the helmet at all and most certainly why they are simply attached with Velcro! And secondly, as a cyclist in modern day Britain, resist the temptation to go clean your wheels in a puddle...you never know what's lurking beneath!*

Sally Lee

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Please find enclosed a cheque towards your Cycle Path Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to you and your team for all your hard work and more importantly your time to take us all on the bike rides. So please pass this on to your team.

Keep smiling  
Christine Johnson

# New Cycling Initiative in Lupset

BiLi (Biking in Lupset initiative) is a cycling project set up in Lupset, Wakefield. It is the brainchild of St George's and Jubilee Hall Community Centre's. The project is currently funded by Comic Relief, Community First Fund, WDH and Transchem.

The two centres have joined forces to offer the local community an opportunity to have their bikes serviced/repaired at very reasonable cost. We will even check your bike for free!

Weekly Bike Doctor Sessions with qualified staff and volunteers:

**Every Wednesday 5-6pm**  
**@ St George's Community Centre**  
**Every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm**  
**@ Jubilee Hall Community Centre**

A Bike Ride once a month that is suitable for everyone. We even have FREE loan bikes!

**Every second Wednesday of the month**  
**@ St George's Community Centre**  
**Leaving @ 6pm**  
**FREE**

BiLi will also be offering Bike Maintenance Courses in the near future.

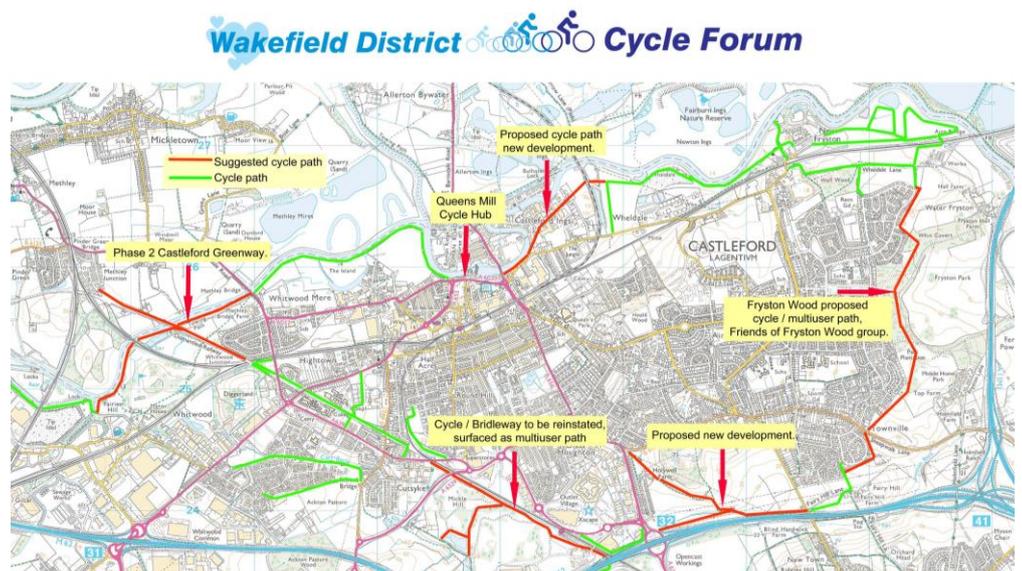
If you would like to know more about BiLi please contact St George's on 01924 369631 or Jubilee Hall on 01924 332554

## Castleford Cycle Hub to be developed

The Cycle Forum has joined up with the Castleford Heritage Trust to develop a Cycle Hub at the Queens Mill on Aire Street in Castleford. The building, which was previously the site of Allinson's flour mill on the riverbank in the centre of Castleford, is being developed by the Heritage Trust as a centre for a diverse group of activities in the town.

Sandy Clark, Chair of the Cycle Forum, believes the new partnership 'will extend the activities of the Cycle Forum to a part of the district which we have neglected in the past. It allows us to add a new hub to those we have developed at Nostell Priory, Anglers Country Park and Pugneys Water Park. From October we hope to be running a monthly guided ride from the centre and setting up a facility where we can run bicycle maintenance courses and workshops'.

The partnership will also strengthen the campaign to develop a network of traffic-free routes in and around Castleford. Council officers have promised that pending planning requirements will result in a number of new traffic-free routes which when completed will join together to form a comprehensive network, as can be seen from the map.



Suggested 10mile Castleford cycle loop with cycle hub at Queens Mill Heritage Trust.

