

# CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



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'Cycle bridge Italian style (see page 3)'



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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm Wakefield Town Hall

Our Annual General Meeting is the time when all members have the opportunity to have their say on the issues which should become the Forum's priorities for the next year. So come along and have your say.

As well as our usual business, including an updates on our three campaign priorities we will hear from a guest speaker.

Simon Geller from Cyclenation will be updating us on cycling campaigns both local and national.

## Roger Talbot Ride

It has become a tradition for the Cycle Forum to commence our summer rides programme with a ride in memory of the man who started it all.

This year the Roger Talbot Ride will commence at Angler's Country Park and follow the route of the *Wonders of Wakefield*. This is the route in the small map

produced by the Cycle Forum and is approximately 20 miles both on and off road.

Join us and start the season off with a bang.

**Roger Talbot Ride**  
**Saturday 31 March**  
**10.30 am**  
**Squires Cafe**  
**Anglers Country Park**  
**Winterset**

## New Cycle Parking at Angler's Country Park

Those of you who keep in touch with the Cycle Forum's campaigning will know the frustrations that we encounter in trying to get good cycle parking installed at appropriate locations. You can imagine the frustration therefore when the cycle parking at Angler's Country Park, a haven for hundreds of cyclists, was removed to accommodate a new play area. It took some time and pestering from a few of our activists but the parking has now been replaced and sited just outside Squires Café.



One of our activists was in Squires on the day the new parking was installed and emailed this message:

'Sitting here in Squires watching the chaps installing the new bike racks outside. I have a warm glow which has nothing to do with the tea.' John

### Andy's praise for 'Health Rides'

Wakefield District Cycle Forum has as one of its aims 'to promote all kinds of cycling in Wakefield District'. One of the ways in which we do this is to run a programme of 'health' rides through which we hope to help people take up or return to cycling. This programme has expanded and become more successful every year. Here is a story from one participant, Andy Haywood, that illustrates 'health' rides at their best.

Four years ago was a bit of a life changer for me. Visiting the Doctor with what I thought was a bit of a chest infection and finding out I needed heart surgery gave me a bit of a beating.

Nineteen weeks later and I was on the other side of it partly rehabilitated but back to work with a serious need to get back to fitness, the only course I could see was the gymnasium after all it had all the

equipment I should need. A year later and a big hole in my pocket it didn't seem I had made the right choice, not for me sat on a bit of kit looking at a wall.

Still with a need to do something it seemed the logical thing to do was to dust down my old road bike and give that a go. But at the time my confidence was low I decided against. However with a bit of pestering on my part to my forgiving wife I went and bought a second hand mountain bike.

Excellent choice I thought, but where could I ride off road, endless searching on the internet wasn't getting me back out.

I finally found a few local runs and then Anglers Park and Haws Wood. Brilliant, it had a cafe and a nice scenic ride. In the cafe I found on the counter a little cycle map, fifty pence later I had found the Wakefield and District Cycle Forum.

I soon found their website and saw that they did Health Rides and other events. So I went ahead and joined a ride not quite sure what I would find. But I need not have worried as I found just what I needed, a great bunch of welcoming people to ride with and build up my confidence. They would ride at a pace that I could keep up with and I did not feel that I was holding anyone back.

It's been a few years now and I'm sure eventually I would have got there on my own but with the support (and I don't think they all realise how much it helped) of the guys in the forum I'm here where I want to be right now, whether out on a weekend with them or out by myself, I have my confidence and a whole range of other abilities (never realised mountain biking was so much fun) I am now looking for funding to get my Bikability Instructor training'

I think a big Thank You is in order  
Andy



Andy, far left, on a Pugney's 'health ride'



# Campaign Update

## New Council Cycle Strategy

Wakefield District Cycle Forum has been campaigning for over two years now for an agreed set of standards for cycle infrastructure both on the highway and on off-road paths. At the last meeting of the Cycle Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> January Tracey Brewer, Group Engineer Highways Development, reported that a new Cycle Strategy had been completed and after consultation with other Wakefield Metropolitan District Council departments would go forward for approval to the Council Cabinet.

Within the Strategy will be incorporated standards for highways developments which should mean that all new and renewal of the highways infrastructure will incorporate features such as cycle lanes, advanced stop lines and feeder lanes for cyclists at junctions with traffic lights. We should also see the reduced use of A-frame access barriers, which should allow easier access to cycle paths and bridleways.

Tracey is also working with the Cycle Forum to improve off-road cycle paths through the planning process. In future all developers will have to comply with the strategy and include cycle friendly infrastructure in developments. This would include new cycle paths where they have been identified as potential routes by the Council and Cycle Forum. The strategy also includes agreed standards for cycle parking in new developments.

We hope this is a new step in a positive relationship between Council and Cycle Forum.

## Cycle Infrastructure Italian Style

If only we could follow this example of cycle infrastructure.



Robert, who took the photographs, says of them:

They were taken in Pescara just south of Rimini on the East Coast of Italy.

Just shows what could be done As you can see the Bridge splits at each end to separate Pedestrians from cyclists no motorised vehicles allowed on it and it had a non skid surface, plus a stupendous view from the top right down the River and Coastline - perfect.



# Winter Rides



*A Pugney's Ride at the Crossroads*

As you can see from the photographs our winter programme of rides has attracted a good crowd of hardy participants. We only run three rides every month but they have proved even more popular this winter. Despite being blessed with good weather most of the time we all look forward to a bigger programme than ever before of sunny, summer rides.



*Taking a rest on the way back to Nostell Priory*