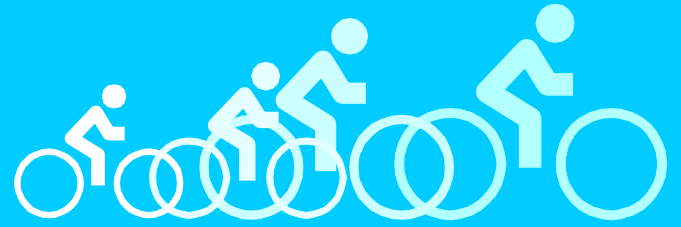


CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Wakefield District Cycle Forum – Annual Report | 2019



Sandy & David take a back seat & David Leigh steps up

IN THIS EDITION

Guided Rides Programme
Still popular

Bike Doctor
Courses and sessions

Workday Report
Improving our paths

Campaign/Cycle Path News
The good and the not-so-good news.

Membership
Up to date numbers

Holiday Wednesdays and Village Thursdays
Busy summer

Working with Wakefield Council
Report on highway developments

2018 was a year that saw some changes in the personnel in Wakefield District Cycle Forum. Our long-standing Chair, Sandy Clark, and Vice-Chair, David Keighley, stepped down from their posts, although they are still active in other roles. We were Chairless for some time, but David Leigh has stepped up as acting Chair till the AGM.

Inside this report you can find more details of our activity in 2018

Annual Report

A. G. M.

Get yourself along to the most important meeting of the year.

Thursday 21st March

6.45pm

Town Hall, Wakefield

Kingswood Suite

Cycle Rides Programme

Wakefield District  Cycle Forum



Guided Cycle Rides & Events 2019



wakefieldcouncil
working for you

We completed 125 rides this year with 1492 participants in total (130 / 1779 in 2017). This is an average of 11.9 cyclists per ride (13.7 in 2017). 279 individuals (295 in 2017) have cycled with us, of which 161 (155 in 2017) were newcomers this year – 134 adults and 27 juniors. Of these 279 individuals, 134 were female (48%) which is significantly higher than last year's figure of 39%.

Of the 1492 ride participants, 510 (606 in 2017) were female (34.1%), exactly the same percentage as last year.

Our bikes were used 104 (109 in 2017) times this year. 34 (24 in 2017) juniors have taken part in our rides this year.

Breakdown per starting point:

Nostell	32 rides	av. 11.1 (11.6 in 2017)	43.0% were female (41.3% in 2017)
Anglers Steady	14 rides	av. 18.4 (19.0 in 2017)	32.6% were female (29.6% in 2017)
Anglers Easy	10 rides	av. 4.6 (Trial in 2018)	23.9% were female
Thornes Park	23 rides	av. 8.0 (12.0 Pugneys 2017)	43.7% were female (35.4% in 2017)
Darrington	11 rides	av. 14.5 (19.0 in 2017)	26.4% were female (27.5% in 2017)
Pontefract Park	11 rides	av. 11.2 (12.8 in 2017)	21.1% were female (25.3% in 2017)
Castleford Easy	12 rides	av. 11.6 (12.2 in 2017)	33.1% were female (43.3% in 2017)
Castleford Steady	12 rides	av. 19.0 (15.8 in 2017)	29.8% were female (31.2% in 2017)



Leading Riders 2018

David Leigh	64	Andrea Telford	45
Sandy Clark	46	Ruth Burton	38
Neil Bartlett	45	Elaine Hillyard	23
Jeff Kitching	40	Libby Hall	23
John Burton	40	Sarah Furber	23

David Leigh became the first WDCF cyclist to complete 400 Forum rides on December 15th and Sarah Furber became the first woman to pass the 200 mark on February 24th 2018.

Ride Numbers Since 2011

Year	Rides	Cyclists	Women	Individuals	Juniors	Cycled with Forum in Previous Year
2011	35	273	84 (31%)			
2012	49	506	116 (23%)	149		
2013	79	1350	322 (24%)	311	41	
2014	123	2514	784 (31%)	586	82	93
2015	140	2408	798 (33%)	518	57	138
2016	139	2158	691 (32%)	425	46	143
2017	130	1779	606 (34%)	295	24	140
2018	125	1492	510 (34%)	279	34	118

Bike Doctor

Monthly Bike Doctors

In 2018 our Bike Doctor monthly DIY sessions continued at Anglers Country Park (except August and December). We are grateful once more to Graham West, Steve Valentine and Steve Thorley-Lawson for running these sessions, which they will continue running in 2019.



Steve Valentine also did his Bike Doctor at two Cycle Fun Days in Outwood and Ian Watson was our Bike Doctor at most of our Holiday Wednesday event at Nostell, and the village fun days at Crofton and Havercroft.

In addition to the DIY sessions the Bike Doctor ran two Basic Bike Maintenance courses in 2019 with over 20 in attendance. There will be four courses in our programme for 2019.

We are very fortunate to have a group of qualified and amiable Bike Doctors, who always seem to be willing to go out of their way to help keep the districts bikes in good working order. They also need our thanks for servicing the bikes which we lend out on our guided rides. This helps many non-cyclists get back on their bikes.

What would we do without them?

Workday Report

As reported in last year's Annual Report the loss of John Harvey was a great blow to our path workgroup as he was the main organiser, technical genius and keeper of our equipment, so it took us a little while to establish a Post-John regime.



Fortunately, we have recruited Geof Pearce to act as keeper and transporter of the equipment and David Keighley has, as ever, stepped up to the plate, in organising the materials, which the council provide, and liaising with landowners and partners.

In 2018 the first half of the year was dominated by surfacing a path through the woods on the Nostell Estate which runs from the Doncaster Road to join paths leading to Crofton and Anglers Country Park. We also spent some time cutting back and tidying some of the other established paths in the Nostell Estate. Our annual leaf clearing exercise on the TPT at Haw Park Woods took place in December.



To improve the surface of the Castleford to Wakefield Greenway we spent some days putting new surfaces on the path where it goes under the M62 near Altofts. By far the biggest job in 2018, in conjunction with the council, was to lay a surface on the path from Chantry Bridge to Fall Ings Lock. The intention in the long run is that this will be surfaced by a developer. We have however put down a temporary surface. It is not the greatest surface, but it does mean that Castleford to Wakefield Greenway is cyclable yearlong.

We are grateful to Horbury and Ossett Phoenix Rotary Trust Fund for buying us an electric wheelbarrow, which will mean we can expand the scope of our workdays.

The workgroup was out on 15 occasions in 2018 with 17 different individuals helping and putting in 294 volunteer hours. Dennis Hall, from Wakefield Walking Group, is one of our ever-present helpers and we welcome two new regulars in Neville Andrews and Andy Beecroft (to the fore in the photo).

The programme for 2019 is more ambitious. The regular day for workdays has moved to Tuesday and they will happen on the 1st and 3rd of the month (except August and December).

If you would like to join our merry band of path repairers contact us at info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk



Campaign/Cycle Path News

The new section of the Castleford to Wakefield Greenway, Methley Bridge to Fairies Hill, was officially opened in March 2018 and Cycle Forum members turned out en masse to launch the new path. Only weeks later the Cycle Forum had to leap into action with a working group when the Calder burst its banks and left a covering of thick mud on the surface. We look forward to the next phase of this project, due to be completed in 2019, to link the Castleford Greenway with the Castleford to Wakefield Greenway and on over the river to Methley and the TPT.



The long-awaited path through Summit Park, at Glasshoughton, was started in 2018. This path will have a hard surface and is 3 metres wide. It will link into the new housing estate being built on the site and will also link the Pontefract Park cycle path to the Castleford Greenway, although there will still be a bit of road to navigate. This is due to be finished in 2019.

When these projects are complete there will be a traffic-free (almost) link between Pontefract Park and Methley. At the Pontefract Park end plans are in place to link with a Pontefract to Knottingley cycle route, which will use quiet roads and traffic-free paths. The section on the canal tow path in Knottingley has now been surfaced and we look forward to progress on the rest of the route in 2019.

The Cycle Forum have identified a number of paths and bridleways which, if improved with a hard surface, would add to the growing network of traffic-free paths which we have established over the last decade. We thought we had agreed a joint working arrangement with the council to progress these 'missing-links'. The Cycle Forum have offered to identify funding opportunities, including using our own funds, and to project manage where necessary. Unfortunately, we require the council to do the 'legal' work, such as dedicating a bridleway, and a year on they have made no progress on this.

We also failed in our campaign to persuade the council department responsible not to install barriers on the entry to Anglers Country Park at Stantingley Lane entrance and in Haw Park Woods. The council failed to consult with the Cycle Forum and received a huge number of complaints about these installations but were unmoved.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow, if more modestly than in previous years. At the end of February it stood at 1,158.

Again, it is heartening to see that a number of our new members from last year have become valued volunteers on our workdays, events and rides.

Holiday Wednesdays and Village Thursdays



The Forum team attended functions at Havercroft, Crofton and Outwood (twice) as well as eight 'Holiday Wednesday' sessions at Nostell in 2018.

27 individuals helped at some or all of these events with 713 volunteer hours being clocked up in total. 1069 children tackled the skills courses and the tombolas raised £617. We also led 17 guided rides during the Nostell sessions which were very popular.

Special thanks should go to John and Ruth Burton who, as new volunteers, not only helped out at all of our events but organised the transport to take to our equipment to the Village Thursdays



Working with Wakefield Council

Our Council Liaison Officer and Forum Secretary, Mark Beswick, reports on our quarterly consultation meetings with Wakefield Council:

During 2018 the lead department in the Council liaising with the Forum changed from Highways to Health Improvement

The following issues were discussed during the past year:

- Improvements to Flass Lane, Glasshoughton and link to Pontefract Park
- Potential bridleway from Bleakley Lane, Notton to TransPennine Trail
- Ploughing up by farmer of cycle link in New Crofton (leading to Santingley Lane and Anglers) (He owns the land)
- Potential new Cycle Path on flood defence at Horbury Lagoons (from Forge Lane, Horbury Junction)
- Bridleway improvement Elsicker Lane to Mill Lane, Normanton
- WMDC owned old railway line in Allerton Bywater area with potential link to RSPB Fairburn Ings and St Aiden's
- Cyclists concerns regarding the Kirkgate (Wakefield) improvements
- Hemsworth to Moorthorpe Cycle Path
- Link from Calder Valley Greenway to Wakefield Eastern Relief Road (to avoid Blue Bridge)
- Developer obligations to provide a continuous cycle path beside Peel Avenue, Durkar and pedestrian crossing of A636 at Swan and Cygnet
- Prohibition of vehicular traffic in Lawns Lane, Outwood and resurfacing for pedestrians and cyclists
- Growing traffic volumes on Oakenshaw Lane, Walton due to Wakefield Eastern Relief Road
- Vegetation cut backs on footpaths and bridleways
- City Connect progress in Wakefield
- Path Walton Park to Agbrigg
- Obstruction placed by farmer on cycle route from Kinsley to South Hiendley
- Path from Denby Dale Road to Pugneys beside River Calder
- The road layout improvements for cyclists made near the Ruddy Duck (A61/A638) junction (Chantry Bridge)
- Bridleway reinstatement belatedly delivered by Waystone PLC (Glasshoughton)
- Proposed road improvements at Newton Bar (A650/A61) junction
- Pontefract to Knottingley cycle path
- Conditions re cycling attached to planning consent for housing development at Snapethorpe (Lupset)
- Glasshoughton Link Road
- Footpath link Newton Avenue to Umpire Close (Newton Hill)
- Old rail lines which are permissive bridleways north of Ryhill
- New Council Cycle Maps
- Council Cycle Champion
- TransPennine Trail Maps

