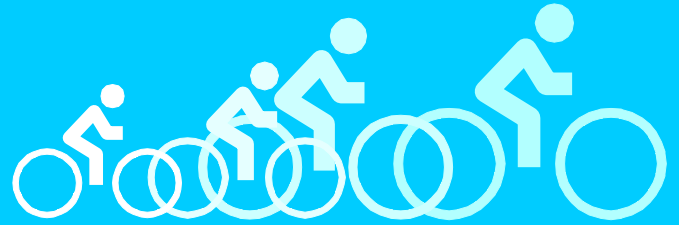


# CYCLING Wakefield

Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



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## Major Breakthrough in Cycle Path Campaign

Wakefield District Cycle Forum started life as a campaigning organization aimed at improving the infrastructure for cycling in the Wakefield District. In the last couple of years we have prioritised that campaigning on a number of paths which are not open to cyclists and represent 'missing links' on potentially useful cycle routes.

One of these paths joins Crofton with Walton Country Park and we report a major success in this campaign.

Full details on page 3

## Holiday Fun at Nostell Priory and Parkland

Now a well established part of the Cycle Forum calendar are the Holiday Wednesday session at Nostell Priory and Parkland and we will be there again this year.

The big attraction at these sessions is the cycle skills course which has proven a big winner with children and adults alike. We will also be giving out

information on cycling opportunities in the district and guiding rides round the parkland.

If you are thinking of activities to keep your children or grandchildren amused during the summer holidays look no further and come and join us on any Wednesday throughout August.

## Important Cycling Link Opened

As many members will know the area around Winterset and Nostell contains an important network of traffic-free cycle paths. Many of these paths are used on the 'health rides' run by Wakefield District Cycle Forum in conjunction with the local authority and the NHS and the Wakefield Wheel cycle route makes use of these paths.

One of the difficulties faced by cyclists using this route is that a short stretch of path linking the lake at Anglers Country Park to Santingley Lane and on to the traffic-free routes to Nostell Estate land is a footpath and, though suitable to cycle on, is not officially open to cyclists. A small number of cyclists using the path have also caused a nuisance to the landowner by dropping litter or obstructing farm traffic, actions which have not helped the cause of the majority of cyclists.

At the last meeting of the Cycle Forum's steering group a representative of the landowner attended to explain the issues. Jackie Avison, representing the landowner, said 'We do like to see cyclists using the paths around our land, especially when it is a family enjoying a lovely day out on their bicycles, but we have found discarded inner tubes in our fields, a hazard to livestock, and my father has been told to get out of the way by cyclists when he has been using the lane in his tractor on farm business.'

After discussing the issues with the steering group the landowner has now agreed to allow cyclist to use the footpath on a permissive basis. This means that while the path officially remains a footpath the landowner will give permission for cycling down this lane.



A new sign will be erected (see photo) to make it clear to cyclists that they use the lane only with the landowner permission and that they must use the path with consideration and give way to other path users, including horse riders.

The Cycle Forum urges all its members honour this agreement and do all in their power to ensure that other cyclists also act with respect.

## 'Go Ride' to get children cycling

Thornes Park Stadium will be holding 3 'Go Ride' sessions as part of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council's Get Active summer holiday activities. The sessions are aimed at children between 8 and 14 years old and will employ techniques from a variety of cycling disciplines such as track cycling, mountain biking, BMX and cyclo cross.

The sessions will be delivered by a qualified British Cycling Coach and will help riders improve their existing skills and develop new ones, they will also encourage riders to fulfill their potential in a fun and exciting way using games and challenges.

### Session Venue:

Thornes Park Stadium, Horbury Road, Wakefield

### Session dates:

13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15th August

### Session Times:

12 noon – 3pm

Booking is recommended and there are only 12 places per session.

Contact 01924 302385 for more information or to book

### Price:

£4 per child, per session

All participants MUST bring / wear:

- A Roadworthy bike with working brakes
- A correct sized helmet
- A drink
- Sensible shoes
- Baggy clothing is not recommended for these sessions

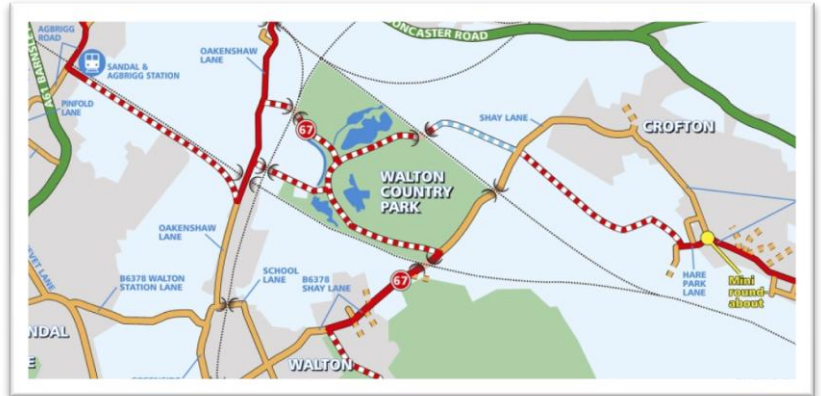


# Campaign Update

## Crofton/Walton Path

In the last newsletter we reported a potential breakthrough in our campaign to open the path between Shay Lane and Walton Colliery Nature Park for cyclists and pedestrians. This time we are able to report that the breakthrough has happened.

At a meeting in June between Cycle Forum representatives, Network Rail (NR) and Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (WMDC), NR agreed to re-open the fenced-off underpass beneath the railway line which blocked the entrance to the Nature Park. NR will enter an agreement with WMDC allowing this section to be used as a foot/cycle path



We continue to pursue Yorkshire Water, who object to cyclists using the path leading up to the railway and with access to the park now assured we are confident that their objections will no longer present the same barrier to the route being fully opened.

## Get on your bikes for the Wakefield Bikeathon

Cyclists in West Yorkshire are being urged to get on their bikes on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October and raise money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

Starting from Kettlethorpe High School at 10 a.m., entrants can choose from a 13 mile or a 26 mile route along quiet country lanes, passing through picturesque country villages and taking in some of the most stunning panoramic views the area has to offer.



The Bikeathon is signposted and marshalled, with refreshment stops and all riders receive a free t-shirt and medal.

All sponsorship raised will help Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research find better treatments and cures for people with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood cancers.

**For more information and to register contact Diane Roberts on 01924 254383. You can also register at [beatbloodcancers.org/bikeathon](http://beatbloodcancers.org/bikeathon)**



# Rides and Events in Pictures



# Bike Week Report

## Bike Week as Popular as Ever

Thanks to the work of 13 volunteer workers who gave 110 hours of their time Bike Week got off to a successful start at Nostell Priory and Parkland. The weather was very mixed, though not as bad as it has been since but, as usual, Sunday was busy for all of the day with some sunshine to cheer us up a bit.



*Some of the team keeping warm in the Gazebo*

Our ever popular skills course had around 80 participants and we took 13 people for rides round the parkland.



*Getting ready for the skills course*

On the second weekend we had a stall at the Green Living Day event at Anglers Country Park which was also successful with many people going away with advice on where they can cycle safely in the district.



*The Green Living Day team (who is the well dressed man in the jacket and tie)*

The bike doctor was present on both weekend and did a 'health check' on over 20 bikes. Here is an example of one of the issues that the bike doctor has to deal with.

Below is one of a pair of brake pads replaced by the Bike Doctor Graham West, after carrying out safety checks on a bike at the recent



**Wakefield Green Living Day event.** People using bikes with brakes in this condition are running a serious risk of death or injury to themselves or others.

If you are not sure about the condition of your bike, or those of your family, please bring it along for our bike doctor to check over, it doesn't take long and it could save a life.



## Police helping cyclists to secure their bikes.

West Yorkshire Police are encouraging cyclists to be more vigilant than ever when it comes to securing their bikes.

In the UK it is estimated that a bike is stolen every minute and less than 5% of these bikes are returned to the owner.

The Police have very limited ways of identifying the owner of bikes which are found or seized. Despite the obstacles, the Police take this offence seriously and will investigate the offence to the highest standards, ensuring all lines of enquiry are exhausted.

Over the past month your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, teamed up with the Joint Public Health Unit to encourage cyclists to secure their bikes. Free "Immobitaggs" have been distributed at various events throughout the summer.

The Team was a big attraction at the Cycle Forum events over Bike Week and over 70 cyclists have taken the opportunity to have the tag fitted by the Police. The tag emits a unique Radio Frequency Identification number that will be registered online during the activation. If the Police find your bike, they can scan the tag and identify the owner of the bike.



*Neighbourhood Policing Team fitting tags at the Nostell Priory Bike Week event.*

The Police would always advise cyclists to wear a correctly fitted cycle helmet. This device can save your life.

Further tips on keeping your bike safe:-

- Use a good lock. Always lock your bike to something secure such as a bike rack or a lamppost and make the lock and bike difficult to manoeuvre.
- Lock up any removable parts such as wheels and take light fittings with you.
- Take a clear colour photograph of your bike and a written record of its description. Include any unique features along with the frame number. Keep these details in a safe place.
- Keep your bike in a locked garage or shed and try to ensure it is secured to something immovable.

### Go-Ride Sessions Back in September

Go-Ride Sessions for 8 to 16 year old will return to Wakefield in September.

The season kicks off with the Go-Ride Games (Olympics Tribute) on Saturday 1st September 14:00 until 17:00 at St Thomas a Beckett School, Sandal. Parents or others not participating in the Go-Ride Games can join in a ride in the format of Health Ride from the school during the games, everyone welcome.

Go-Ride sessions begin again on 6th September and every Thursday during term throughout Autumn and Winter from 17:45 to 19:00, at St Thomas a Beckett School, Sandal.

For further information and to book contact [corinne.picard@googlemail.com](mailto:corinne.picard@googlemail.com)