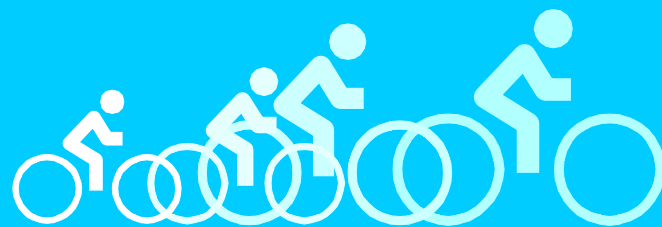


# CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

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## Chevet Branch Line Bridleway Grand Opening

To celebrate the completion of 5 kilometres of new bridleway there will be an official opening of the route on

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
11.30 am  
Wood Lane

Come and join us or ride out with the ride from Anglers Country Park to join up with the celebrations.  
(Full report on page 6)

## Cycle Forum Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 18th March  
6.45pm

Committee Room A  
County Hall, Wakefield

Special Guest Speaker:  
Ian Thomson, Service Director  
Planning, Transportation and Highways  
**WMDC Cycle Strategy – Where Next?**  
(see page 5)

## Cycle Path Workgroup

As you may have noticed from the reports in our recent newsletters, Wakefield District Cycle Forum (WDCF) has become more proactive in improving the cycling infrastructure in the district. Our big achievement in the last year is of course the completion of the Chevet Branch Line Bridleway project, which is reported on elsewhere in this newsletter. But just as important is the work WDCF volunteers do to maintain and improve the existing network of bridleways and cycle paths.



In 2013 a new Wakefield District Volunteer Ranger Coordinator for Sustrans, Ian Hookham (seen here on a workday at Sandal Curves), was appointed and has begun an active programme of maintaining the sections of Sustrans national routes which run through our district. Ian has also started working closely with WDCF and together we have identified a programme of workdays which would improve some of the most used routes in the district.

The intention is to concentrate in the first instance on the

National Network and the local network of routes around Nostell, Crofton, Anglers Country Park and the Trans Pennine Trail. The work will consist of clearing obstructions, cutting back vegetation and constructing new surfaces on paths. When this programme is complete we will move on to other parts of the district network and will be looking for your suggestion of sections which would benefit from a workday. If the programme is to be successful volunteers are needed and we would like to build a workday volunteer group, which Ian has agreed to coordinate.



**If you would like to be part of the Workday Group get in touch with Ian at [ianhookham39@gmail.com](mailto:ianhookham39@gmail.com)**

**Go on get in touch; you know you'll love it.**

## DIY Maintenance Days

DIY maintenance Nostell Priory.

Service your bike while being supervised by our Bike Doctor.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
between 2pm and 3pm

25<sup>th</sup> May between 2.30pm and 3.30pm  
No need to book just come along



# Special Rides Programme is a Frightening Success

Just when you think the Cycle Forum has the formula just right to achieve our aims and objectives and get more people cycling in the Wakefield District, some bright spark comes up with a new idea.

## A HALLOWEN RIDE! In the DARK! Through the WOODS!

Only a mad cyclist could come up with such a scheme.

So we agreed to Graham West's frightening idea. We have to keep in with him after all or he might not do our Bike Doctor Sessions.



So on the night of 31<sup>st</sup> October at 6 pm 24 people turned up in fancy dress, with bright lights and a touch of devilment about them and the ride was a screaming success.

Here they are assembling at Anglers Country Park ready to set off on their adventure.

## How do you follow that? Well with Santa Rides of course!

In conjunction with Wakefield Hospice the first Santa Ride left Pugneys Water Park on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December with over 90 people in tow. Michelle and Des, who run the Pugneys ride for us, must have been quaking in their boots at the sight of so many Santas, but luckily there were some other ride leaders on hand to help and the ride made it to Anglers Country Park and back with all participants in good spirits (despite four punctures).

Five more Santa ride took place in December with big turnouts and all participants enjoying the experience, especially the free tea and mince pies courtesy of **go:cycling**, who sponsored the events.



We have a great group of ride leaders who continue to deal with the growing number of participants on our rides like true professional (without the payment of course).

**Wakefield Hospice report that to date they have raised £1,500 from the Pugneys Santa cycle ride. Well Done!!!**



# Wakefield District Cycle Forum's 2013 Santa rides.



1. Graham West & David Leigh,  
joint best dressed ride leader.

2. Susan Pollin  
best dressed female rider.

3. Richard Pearce  
best dressed male rider.

4. John Matthews  
with his best decorated bike.



No 5. Some of the riders before one of the Nostell Santa rides



# News in Brief

## New Sign at Winterset

At last we can report the removal of the 'Cyclists Dismount' sign at the entrance to Anglers Country Park at Stantingley Lane. Having failed to get Wakefield Metropolitan District Council to replace the sign Cycle Forum volunteers took matters into their own hands and with the agreement of the Council a new sign was installed with the wording originally agreed with the landowner in 2012.



## Ride Leader of the Year

Michelle Land was deservedly awarded the Ride Leader of the Year after she made her monthly ride at Pugneys Water Park the most popular ride on our programme.



## Persistence Pays

Last year newsletter we reported on difficulties with ASDA in the provision and use of cycle parking at some of their stores. One of these stores was at Glass Houghton, in Castleford. After a year of persistent reminders to ASDA we can now report success. Val, who first reported the problem and who was relentless in pursuing the issue said: 'After giving them (Asda Glasshoughton management) more grief look what we have got. Even more than before they were removed.



I am really very chuffed!!'

## WMDC Cycle Strategy – Where Next?

Wakefield Council adopted a new cycle strategy last year. The strategy can be viewed at the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o6b71x91rcm182q/WMDC%20Cycling%20Strategy%20Document%202013.pdf>

The Forum has asked Ian Thomson, Service Director responsible for transport and highways to address our AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Ian will be open to questions and we would encourage you to come along and hear what the strategy will mean for cycling in the Wakefield District. If you would like to address a question to Ian we would ask you to email this in advance to [info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk) so we can brief Ian on the areas of most concern to our members. In that way we hope to get the most positive result from his attendance.



# Chevet Branch Line Grand Opening

To cap off a great year for Wakefield District Cycle Forum the construction of the last phase of the Chevet Branch Line Bridleway project was completed just before the end of 2013. Cyclist, and walkers and horseriders, are now able to enjoy a mud free, smooth ride from Wood Lane, near Newmillerdam, to the Trans Pennine Trail at Old Royston. To celebrate the project's completion the Forum is organising a 'Grand Official Opening' of the Bridleway on:

**8<sup>th</sup> March, 11.30 am at the Wood Lane end of the track.**

Make sure you are there to support the work of the Forum.

You might want to join the ride that leaves Anglers Country Park at 10.30 am and ride the whole length of the track before meeting up with the opening party at 11.30.

## Where to Now?



The Chevet Branch Line project was a large one for the Forum to manage with a total value of just under £100,000 and over 5 kilometres of new bridleway over the land of four different landowners. Wakefield District Cycle Forum provided a small amount of the funding for the scheme but the project was only possible through grants from the Paths for Communities programme, administered by Natural England on behalf of the European Union and the UK government, and assistance from our major partners Wakefield Metropolitan District Council.

The Chevet Branch Line is a disused railway line and constitutes one of the longest stretches of 'missing links' identified by Forum members. These 'links' join up other existing cycle paths with a view to building a continuous network of traffic-free routes for cyclists throughout the district.

The photo above shows the track as work started in February last year. Below you can see the surfaced track as it is now after construction was completed.

The next step in this continuing programme of work will be to use the experience gained in this project to realise other 'missing links' on our wish list. A link from the car park at Newmillerdam to the new Chevet Branch Line bridleway is already under way and plans for a new link into Pugneys Water Park are at an advanced stage. Improvements in paths between Sharlston and Crofton are also being investigated. We are always open to ideas from our members so if you have a suggestion for a



'missing link' that would add a significant improvement to the district's network of cycle routes do let us know.

If our present plans are realised we would see an impressive network of traffic-free cycle routes to the south and east of the City of Wakefield and all thanks to the efforts and persistence of our Forum volunteers.



## 'HALL' CYCLING TOGETHER.

Hi, my name is Stu Hall and as a regular cyclist I have tried on many occasions to share the cycling experience with my other half Susan. These occasions have always seen me doing the right thing like racing to the top of the hills at great speed to impress her, giving her words of encouragement such as 'Cmon its easy ' and helping her find her way around Wakefield by losing her.....does this sound familiar?

Well it was on one of our gentle 'let's see if I can lose the missus' rides that we met John Matthews at Anglers Country Park, John very kindly introduced himself and informed us of the activities organised by the Wakefield Cycling Forum where men, woman and children of all ages ride in harmony! Now this I had to see, as it must surely be like one of those reality shows on TV where we are entertained by other people's misfortune, misery, fallouts, divorce courts and eye gouging.

John went on to tell us of the next forum ride from the Anglers Cafe the following Sunday, surprisingly Susan appeared very keen to join; well as my Susan always gets what she desires we found ourselves lined up ready to ~~race~~ ride on Sunday morning, in addition to being accompanied by Susan I had also brought my father along as moral support because it was sure to turn ugly!

We were briefed by the ride leader that the ride would be steady and no one would be left behind; he also did mention that it would be about 20-30 miles which left me wondering if on this day I would be beaten to death by a mad woman with a bicycle pump? I smiled at Susan and reassured her things would be ok.....I had faith in the criminal justice system and prison would look her!

The ride proved to be the longest ride the Wakefield cycling forum ran on its monthly calendar and with support, encouragement, a little loving and not too many tears I managed to complete in excess of thirty miles! As for erm..... Susan she must surely have passed away on the trails leaving me only the takeaway menus for future feeds, but hey ho I was pleased to learn that not only had Susan completed the ride but she had also made new friends and enjoyed the experience too. How could this be possible, as hell froze over and I questioned everything I had learned since birth I looked to the

sky thinking if there really was a God up there he would surely have eaten that moon if it was made of cheese.

The experience lead me to believe in eight wonders of the world, how could riding with the Wakefield cycling forum have left all three of us seeking out the next ride and wanting more? For fear of sending myself mad I just accepted this was the way it was and this weekly social cycling event would become something we all looked forward to.

These events became a household talking point and even my mother's curiosity go the better of her and she joined the cycling fraternity too; therefore as I write this in January 2014, Susan , both my mother and father and myself have enjoyed many rides with the forum making new friends along the way and chewing the waistline fat.

Therefore whether you're a lycra clad speed freak or a beginner wondering what it's like to ride a bike, consider the benefits and support offered by the Wakefield cycling forum as enjoyment is guaranteed and then there's all the boring health benefits too. There are however the usual health warnings of achy legs and sore bottoms but the greatest health warning comes from fun addiction, this fun is infectious and may spread through your friends and family, fuelled further by the impending Tour de France fever that's due to hit Yorkshire in 2014, you've been warned!

Happy New Year to you all and lets all twirl those pedals together!

Stu Hall

