

# CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

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This is our vice-chair, David Keighley in the new Fountain on the Bullring, Wakefield. He said his experience there was like dealing with Wakefield Council 'going round and round in circles and not getting very far'

If you can think of a caption that goes with this picture do let us know and we will publish any printable versions on the web site.

## End of Year Dinner

We will be having an end of year dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Holmfield Arms, Thornes Park, Wakefield.

If you would like to attend please get in touch with Geoff Westmoreland on 01977 613141.

**Roger**



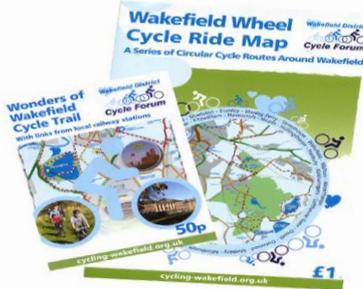
**Talbot**

We are sorry to report that Roger Talbot, A founding member of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum and one of its most active members, died in August after a long illness. As Roger himself explained in our winter '09 newsletter he returned to cycling late in life and took it up with great enthusiasm. He was the

backbone of the Health Rides Programme through which he wanted to pass on his enthusiasm for cycling to others.

A lovely man, a good friend and a much loved brother, father and grandfather he will be sadly missed not only by family and friends but also by many cyclists throughout the Wakefield District.

# Cycle Maps



With part of the grant we received from the Big Lottery Awards for All we have now produced two cycle route maps of Wakefield.

The *Wakefield Wheel* map is a circular route of approximately 40 miles around the outskirts of Wakefield City. Those of you who have participated in the Wakefield Hospice ride might be familiar with the route as it was first developed for this event by our Vice-Chair, David Keighley. David has included many other loops on the map so riders can join the

Wheel at different points or take a shorter ride from a point close to their home.

The *Wonders of Wakefield* map is a pocket-sized map of a shorter route, approximately 20 miles. This takes in places of interest to the East of Wakefield City including Chantry Chapel, Pugneys Water Park, Anglers Country Park and Nostell Priory and Parkland and is accessible by train from Kirkgate, Streethouse, Fitzwilliam and Sandall and Agbrigg Stations.

Members who would like a copy of the maps can collect one from any of the events at which the Cycle Forum is present or by sending your name and address and a cheque for £1.50, £3 to non-members, (cheques made out to Wakefield District Cycle Forum), to cover post and packaging to, our treasurer Gill Ross, 40 Oakleigh Avenue, Wakefield WF2 9DF. You can purchase both maps from the Tourist Information shop in the Bullring in Wakefield.

## Cycling-Wakefield Partners

The Cycle Forum started life as a campaigning group of the local Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) before becoming a consultation forum for Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (WMDC). Our links with WMDC remain strong; although they can be strained at time as those who read the rant by Sandy Clark on our web site will know. We are however building strong links with at least two other local partners; Wakefield District NHS and the National Trust at Nostell Priory.

Our partnership with the NHS has been built from the Cycle Forum involvement in their Health Rides programme and we continue to refine and develop this programme. Earlier in the year we were recipients of a grant from the NHS which was crucial in allowing us to stage a very successful series of event in Bike Week, as our last Newsletter reported. With this grant we were also able to purchase 6 cycles which now allows us to lend bike to people who turn up to our events and fancy going on a guided ride. They will also mean that we can lend bikes to people who would like to come on a Health Ride but do not have their own bike.

One of the problems with owning bikes is finding a place to store them. The National Trust at Nostell has come to our rescue and is allowing us to keep our bikes on their premises. We will be building a purpose built storage unit, again with the help of the NHS grant. Nostell Priory and Parkland is becoming a bit of a headquarters for our guided rides programme and three of our members Martin, Rob, and Hugh have been running regular Sunday guided rides using our loan bikes. You will see from the Winter Health Rides programme that we will run a ride once a month from Nostell where we will be able to loan bikes.

Nostell Priory and Parkland will again be hosting our big weekend event for Bike Week in 2010 and we are looking to extending our events programme there in the summer.

In addition to these two major partners we can also report continued co-operation with Nostell Estate, which owns much of the land around Nostell Priory. Progress has already been made in opening and improving paths for cycle use and we hope to be able to give a full report of the outcome of this programme in the next Newsletter.

## Summer Shows & Events

The Special Newsletter in the summer gave a comprehensive report of a very successful Bike Week for the Cycle Forum. If you did not receive a copy and want to check up on the week you can find the Newsletter on the Forum web site at [www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk](http://www.cycling-wakefield.org.uk) indeed all of the events that we have attended or organised throughout the summer have proved to be popular and have attracted a lot of interest from cyclists and would-be cyclists alike. The success of our events has helped increase membership to around 250.

In addition to the Bike Week events the Cycle Forum had information stalls at the May Day Gala in Thornes Park, the Big Green Day at Anglers Country Park, Pontefract Liquorice Festival and three of our active members, Martin, Rob and Hugh, ran a stall and guided bike rides at Nostell Priory through July, August and September. At some of these events we had guided rides and a cycle skills course, which was very popular with young people of all ages. The course was so popular that at the May Day Gala around 300 people had a go.

We gave advice and guidance at our information stall to over 1,000 people over the course of the summer and have managed to raise the profile of cycling in the Wakefield District as a result. The Forum intends to have a presence at shows and events again next year and we will be organising Bike Week as we did this year.

## Bike Doctor

Another very popular addition to our events this summer is the Bike Doctor. Three of our members, Graham, Neil and Des, ran this stall and over the summer they gave health checks to around 200 bikes and advice to many more bike owners. Their efforts will hopefully result in a few more and safer bikes on the roads. We will be well kitted up on the Bike Doctor stall next year thanks to a grant from the NHS of £500 to buy a new stand, tools and spares.

**Bike Doctor in action at Nostell Priory during Bike Week 2009**



**Negotiating the cycle skills course at Nostell Priory**



**On the new cycle track from Crofton to the Shay lane entrance.**



## New Cycle Tracks

Three significant stretches of cycle track were completed in the district earlier in the year. They were at Pugneys, Crofton and on Halfpenny Lane between Pontefract and Featherstone. Each of these cycle tracks is part of a longer route which hopefully will allow cycle journeys between some important locations in the district.

The Pugneys tracks are part of a route which will link Portobello with Pugneys Water Park, Asdale Road and on to Kettlethorpe and beyond. The Crofton track goes from Hare Park Lane Crofton to Shay Lane. A further track is planned on the west side of Shay Lane which will provide links to the Trans Pennine Trail and the Sandal Curves cycle track to Sandal and Agbrigg Station. Halfpenny Lane will be the link which will allow a signed cycle route from Pontefract via Featherstone, Old Snydale, Streethouse, Sharlston and on to Wakefield. Although this will be an on-road route, the 'off road' surfaced Halfpenny Lane means that it will avoid the busy Wakefield road and be on relatively quiet roads.

The completion of these sections of cycle route show that some progress continues to be made in improving the cycle infrastructure in the District but it is not without its downside. We have complained about the surfacing on all of these routes and those of you who have ridden them will know that it is a bit of a bumpy ride on some parts of the route. Representatives of the Cycle Forum will be meeting with the Transport Department of the Council and this is a major item on the agenda.

We will keep you up to date on these issues and post the latest information on the web site.

## Volunteering

Without our volunteers we would find it difficult to continue with our events throughout the year, and we owe them a big “thank you” for all their time and commitment they give to us,

They find it lots of fun, rewarding and keeps them fit !

Do you think you could help?

We are looking for volunteers to help out over next year’s events these include:

*Guided cycle rides and healthy ride leaders.*

*Back markers for rides.*

*Cycle skills course marshalls.*

*Information stand staffing.*

Even if you can spare an ½ hour to 1 hour your time would be appreciated.

Training or qualifications are not necessary but maybe given for some roles.

If you are interested please contact [info@cyling-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:info@cyling-wakefield.org.uk) or see the volunteers at the information stand at one of our events.

## Health Ride Hits a Snag



Our caption competition for this publication is for the above picture

If you can think of a good caption please email it to

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