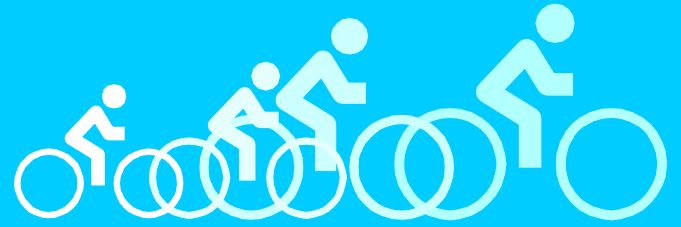


CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Wakefield District Cycle Forum – Annual Report | 2018



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Farewell to our friend

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Annual Report

As Wakefield District Cycle Forum celebrates its 10th anniversary we do so after another successful year in 2016.

Our report continues to reflect the breadth and depth of our activities. We can be particularly pleased at the progress being made on the riverside route (see page 5)

Sadly, we lost one of our greatest volunteers in John Harvey. He was a rock.

A. G. M.

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

**Thursday 22nd March
6.45pm**

**Town Hall, Wakefield
The Kingswood Suite**

John Harvey

Wakefield District Cycle Forum can be very pleased of all it has achieved over the last 10 years and we will celebrate our anniversary with pride. No one can be in any doubt, however, that this last year also saw our greatest loss with the untimely death of John Harvey. At his funeral David Leigh, on behalf of the Cycle Forum, gave a moving eulogy, which we reproduce below as a tribute to the greatest of volunteers.

I don't know what moved John to turn up at Carleton Grange, Pontefract for our first organised ride of 2012, a cold, wet and windy Thursday lunchtime in April (the 12th to be exact). Not a day for the faint-hearted. Only four turned up that day and within a mile of the start, two had called it a day (including the leader) leaving John and myself to complete the remaining 12 miles to the Smeatons and back soaked and in splendid isolation.

I quickly came to realise that this grit and determination to see the job through was typical of the man.

This was the first of 347 Forum rides that John completed in his time with us, a number surpassed by no-one. Out of a possible 640 rides, this is an incredible percentage given his commitments to other voluntary groups (Castleford Mill and Brockdale Woods to name but two) and, of course, to his work. Over the past five years, John has either been first or second in our annual leading rider awards.

He was our Volunteer of the year in 2014 and he could easily have won that award every year since without argument.

I have spent many hours with John in the blue van travelling to events and activities and rarely did a trip go by where he wasn't on the phone to someone who wanted his assistance and/or knowledge. I can't recall John ever saying no and hardly ever not confirming that he'd do the job that day. He loved helping people and he loved his job.

John was a gentleman. Polite, honest, reliable, hard-working and always willing to help.

One of his friends once said to me that he thought the only reason people liked him was for what he could do. Well for once, he was wildly off the mark. John was a very popular and likeable man and to say he will be missed is a huge understatement. Of course, he will be sorely missed by us all, but I have already realised that it will be impossible to forget his contribution. Cycling around our area, every filled-in pothole, every signpost, every newly surfaced stretch



of

cycle path, every reinforced canal towpath, every full English with extra black pudding and a bottle of Pepsi has his name written on it.

Organisations like the Wakefield District Cycle Forum are built on individuals who give of their time and talents freely and unconditionally and we are lucky to have so many in our midst. John was a shining example ... assisting or leading rides, bicycle repair man, encouraging new members, organising and leading workdays, transport manager ... there weren't many areas where he wasn't involved. He was an odd job man par excellence. A gem. And all done with a smile in that quietly calm and endearing manner.

The Forum has enabled us to forge new friendships and we will be eternally grateful for the time we have been able to share with John. All too short for a man who gave so much. Never to be forgotten, the man who stored his bicycles by hanging them from the ceiling of his hall ... Rest in peace Mr Harvey



Cycle Rides Programme

Wakefield District  Cycle Forum



Guided Cycle Rides & Events 2018

We completed 130 rides in 2017 with 1779 participants in total (139 / 2158 in 2016). This is an average of 13.7 cyclists per ride (15.5 in 2016). 295 individuals (425 in 2016) have cycled with us, of which 155 (282 in 2016) were newcomers – 133 adults and 22 juniors. Of these 295 individuals, 115 were female (39.0%) which is slightly lower than last year - 41.9%.

Of the 1779 ride participants, 606 (691 in 2016) were female, 34.1%, a slight increase from last year's 32.0%.

Our bikes were used 109 (125) times. 24 (46) juniors have taken part in our rides this year.

Breakdown per starting point:

Nostell	33 rides	av. 11.6 (13.9 in 2016)	41.3% were female (40.9% in 2016)
Anglers	13 rides	av. 19.0 (16.3)	29.6% were female (22.1% in 2016)
Pugneys	37 rides	av. 12.0 (15.5)	35.4% were female (38.9% in 2016)
Darrington Hotel	12 rides	av. 19.0 (15.3)	27.5% were female (20.6% in 2016)
Pontefract Park	12 rides	av. 12.8 (17.0)	25.3% were female (20.1% in 2016)
Castleford Mill Easy	11 rides	av. 12.2 (15.4)	43.3% were female (41.6% in 2016)
Castleford Mill Steady	12 rides	av. 15.8 (19.5)	31.2% were women (26.9% in 2016)

Leading Riders 2017

David Leigh	72	Andrea Telford	56
John Shaw	61	Elaine Hillyard	48
Sandy Clark	51	Sarah Furber	40
John Harvey	49	Ruth Burton	29
Martin Hillyard	49	Isabelle Leigh	25



Three cyclists, John Harvey, Sandy Clark and David Leigh, passed the 300 Forum ride mark during 2017 and Jeff Kitching has achieved that milestone in January 2018.

At the time of writing, Sarah Furber is three short of becoming the first lady to reach the 200 ride mark.

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	139

David Leigh, January 2018



Bike Doctor

In 2017 our Bike Doctor DIY sessions run throughout the year with only two months being missed. We are grateful once more to Graham West and Dennis Bell for running these sessions. Unfortunately, Dennis had to give up his involvement later in the year, but our thanks go to him for the great work he has done for us in the past. Graham is now being assisted by the two Steves, Valentine and Thorley-Lawson.



Monthly Bike Doctors

Most sessions are a buzz of activity, with no shortage of cycle gossip and one-upmanship. We wouldn't dare discontinue this part of our activity now, so sessions will continue in our 2018 programme.

In addition to the DIY sessions the Bike Doctor ran two Basic Bike Maintenance courses in 2017 with around 20 in attendance. Two more of these sessions are part of our 2018 programme.

The Bike Doctor was also in attendance at other events in Castleford and Nostell.

Once again, our big thanks to Graham and Dennis (and now the two Steves) for such a great service.

Workday Report

Over the ten years of its existence the Wakefield District Cycle Forum has evolved into a multifaceted organisation, we're no longer just about rides and campaigning. A central part of our activity, and one which cyclists in Wakefield District should be thankful for, is our workgroup's path repair work. This is now central to our activity and helps keep our traffic-free path network in an acceptable condition.



Last year saw the workgroup continue work on the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) between Walton and Haw Park Woods. This section is in good condition for its age but many of the supporting structures had rotted and the workgroup has repaired and replaced many of the edging boards that stop the path falling into the old canal. Much work was also required to fill potholes and improve the edging. The annual leaf clearing exercise was completed in November and December. This year we also laid a new surface on the notoriously twisty descent from Old Royston to the canal. It is our long-term ambition to have this section replaced but in the meantime at least the surface has been improved.

Some workdays have been spent clearing Went Lane at Wragby and improving paths in the Nostell Estate but of the 23 workdays this year 16 have been devoted to the TPT.

16 different individuals have helped on workdays this year. The numbers turning up on workdays ranges between 3 and 9. A total of over 350 hours was put in by our volunteers. Two newcomers, Dennis Hall and Norman Davidson, joined us part way through the year and have become dependable participants in our workdays. Norman has now taken over as workday manager. John Wrangle remains a dedicated presence.

John Harvey was our workday manager and ever-present helper, he never missed a single workday, and he remains our greatest inspiration.

The best tribute anyone can pay to John is to continue his work. If you would like to join our merry band of path repairers contact us at info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk

Cycle Path News

The project which has been the most long-standing in Wakefield District Cycle Forum's 'wish list' is now near completion. The riverside route from Wakefield to Castleford promises a 10-mile traffic-free cycle path between these two major centres in the district and the most important 'missing link' in the greenway has now been completed. The tarmac path from Methley Bridge to Fairies Hill has now been laid. The whole route is now rideable although there are sections at both ends which need improvement if the town centres are to be accessed by traffic-free routes in all weathers. The Cycle Forum will continue to be vigilant till we can say the whole route is in good condition.

Approval and funding has now been secured to link the riverside route to the Castleford Greenway, including and new bridge over the live railway, and to continue that link to Methley and the Trans Pennine Trail.

We can also report that after discussions with Wakefield Council and the Cycle Forum, Waystones, who are developing the Xcape/Junction 32 site have agreed a route and specification for a new bridleway, which will link the Castleford Greenway to the cycle path through Pontefract Park. Another long-term ambition of the Cycle Forum, to develop a traffic-free link between Castleford and Pontefract, is now close to being realised.

The development of a comprehensive 'wish list' of cycle routes is being developed by the Cycle Forum and Wakefield Council. Full details of this are in a separate document which will be open for discussion and approval at the AGM.

Work on the Hemsworth to Moorthorpe path did not progress in 2017. As reported last year there is a hold up as we seek permission from a landowner for a bridleway across a small part of their land. We will be pursuing this further in 2018.

The Cycle Forum has had discussion with Wakefield Council with a view to opening a new bridleway linking the village of Ryhill into the network of traffic-free paths which we have developed between Wintersett/Anglers Country Park and Nostell/Foulby. Hopefully the first part of the project (marked in green on the map) will go ahead in 2018, be designated as a bridleway and completed with an all-weather surface funded by the Cycle Forum. The second phase (marked in red) has land ownership and construction issues which we hope to tackle when phase one is complete.



Membership

Our membership continues to grow, if more modestly than in previous years. At the end of February it stood at 1,138.

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 Thornes Park, Havercroft, Crofton, Portobello and South Kirkby as well as seven 'Holiday Wednesday' sessions at Nostell in 2017.

26 individuals helped at some or all of these events with 629 volunteer hours being clocked up in total. 969 children tackled the skills courses and the tombola raised £616.



Working with Wakefield Council

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

Items discussed

- Kirkgate improvements (Wakefield)
- Cycling Legacy Group/Healthy Transport Team
- Lawns Lane, Outwood – closure to vehicular traffic
- Wakefield Road Wheel
- Barnsley Road/Doncaster Road junction Wakefield – short and long-term improvements
- Hemsworth-Moorthorpe cycle route
- City Connect – Castleford to Wakefield cycle route (completion)
- Link from Castleford to Wakefield cycle route to Eastern Relief Road
- City Connect – Castleford Greenway extension to Methley (approval granted)
- Cycle path on opposite side of railway to Colorado Way, Glasshoughton
- Dando Way, Ackworth – Fitzwilliam Station (feasibility study)
- Buxton Place to Kensington Road, Newton Bar cycle route
- A650 Newton Bar/Snowhill development – improvements for cyclists
- Pontefract – Knottingley Connect cycle route
- Cycle Facilities in Calder Park, Durkar
- Cycle routes on former railway lines north of Ryhill
- Cycle route Bar Lane to Newton Hill
- 2017-2018 expenditure on cycling
- Potential for cycling improvements as a result of housing development between M1 and Snapethorpe, Lupset
- Missing safety barrier on Wakefield Wheel at Monckton Road, Thornes
- Cycle route Margaret Street – St John's Square, Wakefield
- A61 Barnsley Road/Chevet Lane Junction (Sandal)
- Flass Lane improvements (Glasshoughton)
- Potential for other large-scale future cycle improvements

