

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 10 JUNE 2014

A NAKED “TOUR DE YORK”

Every year in cities in six continents there are colourful and fun cycle protests known as World Naked Bike Rides. This year, York is hosting “Le Tour Nu de York”, a fortnight before the second stage of Tour de France speeds through the city. The Ninth York World Naked Bike Ride will be at a somewhat slower pace and open to all cyclists. This is a protest against unsustainable oil usage and the destructive effects of car culture, but it's a celebration too, of our bikes and the power and individuality of our bodies.

The ride is on Friday 20th June and leaves from Millennium Bridge at 5.30pm. The route takes in the west of York 'orbital' cycling route for the first time. We will pass via the Racecourse, where there will be a minute's silent contemplation for cyclists who have been killed on our roads. Later we will join the riverside path between Clifton Bridge and Museum Gardens. In the city itself we'll pass by the Minster, King's Square and Clifford's Tower where we'll stop for photos. Finally we'll visit the University before arriving back at Millennium Bridge soon after 7pm.

Participants are invited to ride 'as bare as they dare', or to don fancy dress or body paint. This year we have a dedicated body-painting venue which is available from 3pm, and we're expecting yellow to be very popular! Riders will start gathering on the south-east side of Millennium Bridge at about 4pm. Expect a carnival atmosphere with bells and hooters, decorated bikes and slogans about how vulnerable cyclists are, and how little pollution they emit!

Elise Robinson, 22, is this year's ride leader. She said: “The naked bike ride is important to me as I think roads for cyclists can be dangerous. I think it is a very good way of getting the message across, well it's definitely not going to go unnoticed, and riding naked makes me feel liberated!! Society shouldn't be so problematic about naked bodies, after all, we are all born naked! The ride is also a celebration of how beautiful we ALL are, a celebration of life, love and equality.”

Mike Smith, 49, who will be riding his third WNBR, said: “If my plucking up the courage to go naked and cycle through the city streets watched by thousands brings enough awareness to people, that one accident is prevented, one life is saved, then I'm happy to be brave.”

This year, for the first time, a post-ride social and cabaret has been organised, at an indoor venue. This 'clothing optional' event is only open to participants of the ride, and will have live music and comedy from Dead Bird, Mark Wynn and Debra Fayter, plus special guests.

All cyclists are welcome, though anyone under 18 should be accompanied by a responsible adult. 'Get Cycling' are offering bike hire for the ride for just £10, so not having a working bike is no excuse for not participating, but advance booking is essential. Get Cycling have bikes and trikes to suit any rider, whatever their ability. Potential riders can find further details of the ride on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/groups/york.wnbr/>, or our website <http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org/index.php?title=York>

The event is part of '[Bike Week](#)', the biggest annual national cycling event in the UK, which encourages everybody to give cycling a go, and invites people rethink their everyday journeys and switch to cycling as the most convenient way to get around.

The organisers have arranged the protest in full consultation with the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

We welcome Press reporters, photographers and TV crews to attend the ride. We encourage photographers to follow the London WNBR photography policy
http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org/index.php?title=London_photography_policy

Contacts and more information

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For further, up-to-date press information including stock images, visit:

http://worldnakedbikeride.org/wiki/UK_media_information