

PRESS RELEASE 22nd June 2016 (For Immediate Release)

The Eleventh YORK World Naked Bike Ride, 25th June 2016, and FIRST Scarborough World Naked Bike Ride, 26th June 2016

York once again takes part in the global protest about cyclist safety and our dependence on fossil fuels for transport, this year on Saturday 25th June, leaving Millennium Bridge at 5pm, and passing by many York landmarks. This is the eleventh year of the York ride and still cyclists are dying in unacceptable numbers on our roads. This year we will highlight this carnage with a special event in St Helen's Square, starting at about 5.20pm.

The ride is a protest about how vulnerable cyclists are, yet bikes are the most eco-friendly transport option. Cars, lorries and other motorised transport is mostly fossil fuelled and therefore polluting and unsustainable, and are the main reasons that cyclists get killed. We ride to celebrate the simplicity and beauty of bicycles and the diverse bodies who power them, regardless of age, sex, body mass index, skin colour, belief system or ability. There are cycles suitable for anybody.

The York route takes in Terry Avenue and Skeldergate, North Street and Lendal Bridge, St Leonard's Place, Gillygate and Lord Mayor's Walk, before turning into Goodramgate and passing the Minster, and the 'Mystery Theatrical Happening' in St Helen's Square, which will be a World First. Via Parliament St and Coppergate, we will get to the 'traditional' photo-stop at Clifford's Tower, before visiting the picturesque 'Fishergate Gyratory' and crossing over Skeldergate Bridge, passing along Bishopthorpe Road, Scarcroft Road, Scarcroft Hill, Albermarle Road, and through the Racecourse and back to Millennium Bridge. This route is expected to take about 90 minutes.

This weekend also sees the first Scarborough World Naked Bike Ride, starting near the top of the Funicular Railway on Esplanade Gardens at 2pm on Sunday 26th. The aims are the same, but the organiser, Alex Liberty, says "We are calling for drivers to ditch their diesel cars in particular as their emissions are more dangerous and carcinogenic than petrol fumes."

Both rides have been given the nod of approval by North Yorkshire Police, who confirm that nudity in the context of a protest is legal. However, riders do not have to be naked; many come in costume or paint slogans on their bodies beforehand, and both rides will have covered body-painting space for an hour beforehand. Bring your own paints, decorate your bikes, or just come for the ride. Both rides are proud to be part of Bike Week, an annual opportunity to promote cycling, and show how cycling can easily be part of everyday life by encouraging 'everyday cycling for everyone'.

ENDS

Notes for Editors and Photographers

The York organiser is John Cossham 0777 2299 094 jscossham@gmail.com
The Scarborough organiser is Alex Liberty, lex.liberty@yandex.com

For more info on these rides, see

<http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org/index.php?title=York>

<http://wiki.worldnakedbikeride.org/index.php?title=Scarborough>