



Know Your Neighbourhood Penistone Refugees

Refugee Social Cycle Ride

Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers' Support Group organised a social cycle ride along the Trans Pennine Trail from Silkstone Common Station to Wigfield Farm and back to Silkstone Common this summer.

The ride was held on Saturday 19th August 2023, along the traffic-free Trans Pennine Trail from Silkstone Common to Wigfield Farm, a distance of approximately 5 miles. On arrival at the farm, we had lunch and gave our participants time to enjoy the facilities before the return journey..

All members of the refugee community were welcome to join this bike ride, even children as long as they were confident cyclists and accompanied by an adult. One of the organisers Alex Simon requested that *“all guests must be competent cyclists and able to cover the 10-mile distance and attendees must have their own cycles and the bikes need to be in a good state of repair.”*

In collaboration with the Refugee Council, Alex, who is a volunteer with the Penistone Group, has now refurbished 100 bikes during the last year to give to asylum seekers and refugees all over Barnsley and the feedback he has received has shown what a huge difference they are making to people's lives.

One Ukrainian refugee said *“I would like to thanks the Refugee Council and Penistone Group for providing me the bicycle which save my time and granted me the ability to spend more outdoors by cycling to the park and make transportation easier to explore Barnsley and its countryside”.*

A Sudanese refugee commented *“I live far from the centre. I use the bicycle for commuting and shopping. I love exercising by cycling around Barnsley using the bicycle. Now I am doing more outdoor activity feeling more healthier now”.*

The social cycle was supported by the funding from Know Your Neighbourhoods via the Trans Pennine Trail national office, Sustrans, the Refugee Council and Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary.

Here is another great bit of feedback that we had from one of our participants:

My two children and I joined the charity cycling event on 19th of August. We were very lucky with the weather and extremely lucky with the volunteers. Most of them we knew before and recognise from shopping or during a walk along the Pennine Trail.

We know about the Trans Pennine Trail a little, in that it goes across the whole of England from the east to the west and it is available for walkers, riders and cyclists. Some parts of it are flat, some are not. There are many local groups for running, walking and family events along the whole trail. One gentleman ran from Penistone to Liverpool along the trail. It took for him 11 hours. I would love to know more about it.

The cycling on 19th of August wasn't only an interesting event but also a useful one for me as a single parent with two children. Managing a family is stressful sometimes especially in bad weather. If you have not a car you would more likely cancel your cycling plans following the rain forecast. At the same time 'never rely on the forecast in England', a big part of cancelled cycling trips might be lost opportunities to have fun. Also it is a bit boring cycle only close to your house.

Volunteers cared us completely at every moment of our cycling trip. They met us at the rail station on the start and dropped us off home at the end. I appreciate it very much. My children enjoyed time at Wigfield farm, we all enjoyed talking with volunteers. They were so kind to spend extra hour at the local pub after cycling only because my children were happy to get a glass of lemonade as a finish point of the resting day.

Many thanks all the volunteers for that.

I V Ukrainian Refugee

Alex Simon – Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group



Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group - Barnsley

Aim of the Organisation:	To campaign on behalf of and to help physically, mentally and spiritually, asylum seekers and refugees. The organisation operates within the whole of the Barnsley Borough to support new arrivals to the local community and encourage healthy modes of transport, support the R and A S community and explore the Borough.
Website:	https://www.livewellbarnsley.co.uk/directory/barnsley-city-of-sanctuary-penistone-asylum-seeker-refugee-support-group/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/266809195513759/