



7 December 2017

Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme wins international award

The Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme has beaten off stiff competition to be named the winner of an international award at a ceremony in Monaco.

It's the very first time a project from the UK has been successful at the annual Peace and Sport Awards. They recognise organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to peace, dialogue and social stability in the world – through sport.

Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries was shortlisted in the category of Sport Simple Program of the Year - and tonight (December 7), the scheme was revealed as the winner.

The bike library scheme was launched as a legacy of the Tour de France Grand Départ in 2014, which was held in Yorkshire.

Its aim is simple: to give every child in Yorkshire access to a bike, for free.

The whole community gets involved with the scheme, as anyone can donate their unwanted bikes at one of the county's 62 donation stations.

Bikes are then repaired if necessary and made available for people to borrow completely free of charge from one of the bike libraries across Yorkshire.

The scheme has gone from strength to strength since it launched three years ago and there are almost 50 bike libraries.

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, said: "This is a magnificent achievement and I'm so proud of everyone who is involved in the Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme.

"To be the only UK scheme shortlisted in any category at the Peace and Sport awards was fantastic – and to win is true recognition of the amazing work the bike libraries are doing for the community."

Helen Page, Group Innovation & Marketing Director at Yorkshire Bank, said: "We are thrilled that Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries has been recognised by the Peace and Sport Awards. To date there have been 50,000 opportunities for children and their families to borrow one of the 5,500 donated bikes. Communities across Yorkshire have really got behind this initiative and it's a wonderful testament to everyone involved that it's attracting international recognition."

The Bike Library scheme was shortlisted with two other projects – one in Brazil to promote social inclusion for youngsters through sport, the other in Switzerland working with schools to increase participation in softball and baseball.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Full list of Bike Library locations:

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Catterick Garrison Bike Library, Catterick Garrison
Get Cycling Special Needs Bike Library, York
Harrogate Town Community Foundation Bike Library, Harrogate
Middlesbrough Cycle Centre Bike Library, Middlesbrough
Middlesbrough Environment City Bike Library, Middlesbrough
Positive Youth Bike Library, Tadcaster
Coast and Dale Bike Library, Scarborough

EAST YORKSHIRE

Beverley St Nicholas Primary School Bike Library, Beverley
Boothferry Primary School Bike Library, Goole
Bridlington All Ride Bike Library, Bridlington
Driffield Primary School Bike Library, Driffield
Goole Academy Bike Library, Driffield
Hilderthorpe Primary School Bike Library, Bridlington
Mount Pleasant C of E Primary School Bike Library, Market Weighton
Parkside Primary School Bike Library, Goole
Pocklington Community Junior School Bike Library, Pocklington
R-evolution Bike Library, Hull
St Georges Primary School Bike Library, Hull
St. Michael's Youth Project Bike Library, Hull

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Active Barnsley Bike Library, Barnsley
Club Doncaster Bike Library, Doncaster
Forge Valley School Bike Library, Sheffield
Full Gas Bikes Bike Library, Fox Valley - CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT
In2Change Bike Library, Sheffield
Sporting Penistone Bike Library, Penistone

WEST YORKSHIRE

Active Calderdale Bike Library, Halifax
Active Calderdale Bike Library, Illingworth
AWARE Bike Library, Addingham
Be Cycling Bike Library, Bingley
Bradford Trident Bike Library, Bradford
Fearnville Bike Hub, Leeds
Frizinghall Community Centre Bike Library, Bradford
Happy Days Bike Library, Sowerby Bridge
Margaret Carey Foundation Bike Library, Shipley
Moor Allerton Bike Library, Leeds
Middleton Park Bike Library, Leeds
New Wortley Community Association Bike Library, Leeds
One Stop Centre, Armley, Leeds
One Stop Centre, Dewsbury Road, Leeds
One Stop Centre, St George's Road, Leeds
Reverse the Cycle Bike Library, Kinsley
Richmond Hill Primary School Bike Library, Leeds
Streetbikes Bike Library, Huddersfield
The Compton Centre Bike Library, Leeds
The Reginald Centre Bike Library, Leeds
The Well Project Bike Library, Normanton
University Academy Keighley Bike Library, Keighley
Yorkshire Children's Centre Bike Library, Huddersfield

- Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries is a joint project with Welcome to Yorkshire's cycling initiative, Cycle Yorkshire and Yorkshire Bank.
- Cycle Yorkshire is a partnership of Welcome to Yorkshire, local authorities and other key cycling organisations in Yorkshire committed to using Yorkshire's Tour de France Grand Départ 2014 to deliver a region wide cycling legacy for all generations and all abilities.
- Each bike library is different and all offer a range of activities, including short or long-term loans, family rides, skills training or activity sessions.
- The Sport Simple Program of the Year category rewards a program which uses sport as a tool for peace, applying simplified rules that are adjusted to the specific technical level of participants and/or environment of implementation, and using sport equipment created from local or recycled material.
- Tag Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries in coverage on Twitter and Facebook using our handles: @BikeLibraries and <https://www.facebook.com/bikelibraries/>

Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries Partnership Overview

- Yorkshire Bank has partnered with Cycle Yorkshire to launch the Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries initiative across the region.
- The aim is to make cycling more accessible in Yorkshire by providing communities with bike libraries.
- People are encouraged to amnesty their old bikes and drop them off at the designated donation stations.
- Donated bikes will make up the Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries and be available to individuals, local enterprises and community groups to borrow, so more people, young and old, can enjoy the benefits of cycling.
- The partnership launched on 12 December 2014.

Yorkshire Bank

Yorkshire Bank was founded in 1859 in Halifax, West Yorkshire. Yorkshire Bank is a trading name of Clydesdale Bank plc, part of CYBG PLC.

For more information please contact:

Alice Bailey – Press Officer, Welcome to Yorkshire

Email: abailey@yorkshire.com

Mobile: 07711 221 068