



For immediate release

### **Don't let your old bikes go to waste if you get a new one this Christmas**

If you're lucky enough to find a brand new bike under your Christmas tree, don't let your old one go to waste – why not donate it to Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries so someone else can benefit from it?

The award-winning Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme has one simple aim: to give every child in Yorkshire access to a bike, for free.

The project asks for anyone with an old or unwanted bike to hand them in at one of 62 donation stations across the county.

The bikes are repaired if necessary and then made available to borrow completely free of charge from one of the bike libraries all over Yorkshire.

So, if Father Christmas brought you or someone you know a bike this year, make someone else's year by donating your old one to the Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme.

Today (December 12), the Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme celebrates its third birthday – and in the short time since it launched it's gone from strength to strength – with over 60 donation stations and almost 50 bike libraries in place.

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, said: "It's amazing that the Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme benefits so many children across the county. But what's just as fantastic to see is how many generous Yorkshire people have got behind the project and donated a bike.

"So far, over 5,500 bikes have been donated which is incredible – thank you to everyone who has got involved. I'm sure there will be lots of lucky children finding a new bike under the Christmas tree this year. Don't let your old bike go to waste – let someone new love your old bike!"

Helen Page, Group Innovation & Marketing Director at Yorkshire Bank, said: "It is so inspiring to see what the Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries has achieved in these three years and we are determined to keep momentum moving into 2018.

"We would not have been able to achieve what we have without the fantastic support from the local communities within Yorkshire and ask that people continue to support the project this Christmas."

The Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme became the first UK project to win a Peace and Sport Award last week at a ceremony in Monaco.

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**Notes to editors:**

- 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.
- The annual Peace and Sport Awards recognise organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to peace, dialogue and social stability in the world through sport.
- 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.

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