

Happy Days Rough sleepers Rider

A group, led by Halifax based charity Happy Days, are set to ride 280 over five days in a bid to raise thousands to fight homelessness in Yorkshire

Beginning on Monday the 4th of February, the group will set off from Halifax and cover the length and breadth of the North of England, stopping at York, South Shields, Carlisle and Morecambe before arriving back in Sowerby Bridge on Friday the 8th for a sleep out at Sowerby bridge cricket club.

Cycling up to 80 miles a day, the team will be sleeping rough at every location, replicating the plight of the homelessness in the North of England in a bid to raise awareness and funding. Last year's ride from London to Halifax saw over £10,000 pounds raised for good causes in the area.

Commenting on the ride, Dave Fawcett, CEO of Happy Days, said "Last year we managed to raise over £10,000, and we want to go even bigger and better this year. If you're a keen cyclist and want to get involved, we always have space available and we'd love to hear from you."

"Everybody who's pledged to take part in this ride has a huge love and passion to change lives and improve local communities. Whether it's raising money, volunteering or just changing attitudes towards homelessness, I hope we inspire as many people as possible over the coming days."

"Anybody can be a victim of bad circumstances, but it can be so simple and easy to make a difference in someone's life who needs it the most."

Happy Days Ministries are based in Sowerby Bridge, Halifax, and provide essential services to those suffering from homelessness and addiction in their area. As well as these services, their social enterprises include a cycling shop, a café and a building company.

Happy Days is also one of the 60 Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries throughout the county, a unique scheme launched by Welcome to Yorkshire as a legacy of the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire, designed to give every child in Yorkshire an opportunity to borrow and ride a bike for free.

Sir Gary Verity DL, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, said: "What an inspirational challenge for such a great cause! Happy Days does so much for the local community and it's fantastic to see them capitalising on the county's enthusiasm for cycling in a bid to fight homelessness.

"As one of our dedicated Bike Libraries, they're well versed in turning dreams into a reality and I have no doubt that they'll raise even more awareness and funds than last year. Good luck to all involved."

Throughout the ride, Dave Fawcett will be meeting local residents at the rest stops and giving talks on homelessness in the North of England and how communities can get involved to help.

On the final night, the 8th of February, the Happy Days team have extended an open invitation for those wishing to raise money themselves. Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club will be hosting a sleep out for the riders and anyone wishing to accompany them. More information and how you can get involved please email angela@happydaysuk.org.

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Notes to Editors:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/happydaysuk/>

For further information please contact Michael Collins on 01422 836860 or email Michael@happydaysuk.org

Press are invited for interviews and photos on Friday February 8th at Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club

For further information about Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries, please visit:
www.bikelibraries.co.uk