INSIDE
Your local guide to the Jenkin Rd climb
Heritage village guide
Local information
Fun and games while you wait for le tour

WELCOME TO WINCOBANK
Côte de Jenkin

The Friends of Wincobank Hill welcome you to Wincobank Hill. The peloton of 2014 Le tour is the latest and most exciting group to take on the challenge of Jenkin Rd. All Sheffielders know the perils of this hill be it trying to get up it in a balmy summers afternoon or down it in on an icy winters morning. Its an unforgiving obstacle and its not unusual to see young and old alike taking a breather on the handrail at its steepest section.

Few people realise the rich history and archaeology that is still very visible on the hill, in fact the cyclists will be going directly through one of the longest earthworks in the country, the so-called Roman Ridge.

The Friends are passionate about the area and spend much time conserving the area, putting on events, and promoting the understanding and good management of the hill. It is a real pleasure to welcome so many people here for what is likely to be one of the biggest events the hill will ever witness. We do hope you take the time before or after the race to explore the Heritage village (see inside), perhaps take a stroll to the Hillfort for some truly stunning views of Sheffield and the Peak District National Park beyond or if you are feeling a little more adventurous wander along the Roman Ridge or there again maybe simply visit the Cartimandua monument (some say she is the Queen of the Hill) and enjoy a bit of drama with an ice-cream or a beer.

The Friends of Wincobank Hill have many friends across the world and while many cannot join us directly they participate in all things Wincobank via our website, blog and facebook page. If you fancy joining the Friends to come and see us at our stall in the marquee on Wincobank common on the right of Jenkin Rd and opposite the heritage village. We would love to hear what you thought of the day and would very much encourage you to leave comments either in our guest book or online Facebook (search for Friends of Wincobank Hill), our website (http://wincobankhill.btck.co.uk/), and our blog (http://www.wincobankhill.blogspot.co.uk/)

Allez Wincobank!!
As the Yorkshire Grand Depart draws to a finish Jenkin Rd will be the last climb for the UK part of le tour. The friends, residents committee, council Woodland team and the university have all been beavering away to make sure that this climatic end of the grande depart is extra special. Beyond all the razzamatazz we have laid on for the day it is the Hill which will remain the real attraction but what is it that makes Wincobank Hill so special? The hill may only be a 95m climb but the critical mid-section is a 33% gradient which has even had professional cyclists think about getting off and pushing! The hill has been a focus for communities for millennia, with the most noticeable presence on the summit being the well preserved remains of an Iron Age (500BC) hill fort. At its summit the Wincobank stands 160m (535ft) above sea level, not excessive high but against the gentle topography of eastern Sheffield it is a significant landscape feature that offers good panoramic views and dominates the views from teh Don Valley. If you look due east you would have to travel over 3000 miles to the Ural mountains before you encountered land of equivalent altitude. The shear incline of Wincobank is of course caused by its particular geology and it is the Silkstone Rock with the upper outcrop of Parkgate sandstone that forms the distinctive hogsback that the cyclists will have to battle...it will be a true test of their training programmes.
STAGE ONE. As the riders pass Lincoln St they will start to feel the climb. Its still a gentle incline at this point but they will notice the gradient picking up in the distance. The gradient here is about 1 in 20 so a gentle start for the peloton. The riders will know what is coming and having already cycled 196km Jenkins Rd will be a huge obstacle to those many tired legs. Be prepared as the riders move into the second stage of cote de Wincobank some may decide to get off and push!

STAGE TWO All will be feeling the burning in their legs at Stage two as the gradient picks up to about 1 in 8. Its not unusual to see cars stall at the end of this stretch of Jenkins Rd as they change down in horror as they see what awaits them around the corner. If there is a tight bunch at the front then it is likely to be at the end of this stretch that they will start to juggle for position. Watch for those that start to take the right hand side of the road in the hope that they will position themselves in the place spot to take on Stage Three.

STAGE THREE. It is here that the drama will unfold. With a gradient of 1 in 3, this part of Jenkins is enough to snap a chain. Some may decide that pushing is better use of what little energy they have left. There are few roads so steep that the council provide handrails but this is one! Stalled vehicles and the smell of burnt clutches are a regular event on this stretch of Jenkins...It is likely to be the most exciting spot of the whole of day......be prepared for high drama!

STAGE FOUR For those who have survived stage 3 the climb is not over yet but it does get easier although few will have much energy left in their muscles. As they enter in to stage four the riders won’t be aware but they will be riding over Roman Ridge, one of the longest ancient linear earthworks in the region. The riders won’t have time to ponder on its meaning but it is likely that it was used to define a boundary of some kind and most probably dates to the Iron Age, possibly contemporary with the Hillfort.
Visit the Heritage Village

*Experience Roman dramas, Iron Age activities, the World’s only pedal powered Iron furnace and other crafts*

Everyone in Wincobank knows that on top of the hill is an ancient fort, yet this nationally recognised monument is more enigmatic than many might believe. Its often said that the fort was built by the Brigantes tribe to fend off the Romans yet the Fort has been dated to half a millennia before any Roman occupation. Its not even certain that the people who built it were Brigantes as this was a name recorded by Romans much later.

What is certain is that the Hillfort has a commanding view of the local area. A spectacular view of central Sheffield and the Don Valley and to the west a good vista of the Peak District National Park. In the mid gorund to the west is the top of Crookes where up until the last century the ridge would have been crowned by significant Bronze Age burial carins, some as high as 5m high! Its understanding Sheffield as an interconnected landscape that is central to appreciating Wincobank Hill. From the hillfort you can look down at the Don and Meadowhall and beyond to Magna Science centre, the site of the substantial Roman fort of Templeborough which would have twice been the northern frontier of the Roman empire. Closer to home adn about 150m below the hillfort is Roman Ridge. It is the relation of the ridge to the Hillfort that puzzles so many amateur and professional archaeologists. Roman Ridge runs for 17km-an extraordinary building effort but why?? It might have been defensive but the logistics of defence across such a large area doesn’t make good sense, it seems probable it is more likely delineated a special territory, perhaps one of ritual or symbolic significance where different groups could come together on neutral territory.

As part of the Le Tour celebrations the Friends have created an Iron Age village which will host a plethora of activities over the weekend. The Graves Discovery centre will be demonstrating a range of heritage crafts from pole lathe turning to wood carving, while on the Cartimandua star stage the Friends along with actor Chris Binns will be performing Iron Age vignettes that are sure to shock and intrigue all with their take on local history.

There will also be open air cooking to experience, along with the worlds only pedal powered bloomery furnace where local iron ore will be turned in to iron courtesy of the archaeology students from the University of Sheffield. There will also be a number of Iron Age attractions including traditional potting, story-telling and artworks hosted in the yurt and roundhouse. Do make sure you make time to climb Jenkin Road for yourself and visit the Heritage Village.
THE IRON WHEEL

To celebrate the Grand Départ passing across Wincobank Hill a massive piece of eco land-art on Wincobank Common as been created. Covering over 200sqm it will be a a notable landmark when seen from above.

Working with Friends of Wincobank Hill, local schools and The University of Sheffield Archaeologists, Sheffield-based artist Paul Evans has blended Iron Age art with cycle wheels. Children from two local junior schools have designed the motif for maximum visibility. The final design incorporates two wheels and the name Wincobank but with room in the final form for children’s creativity. The motif will remain on the ground until it disperses naturally leaving an imprint on the grass that will be clearly visible from the air for some time to come.

On the race day join Paul on Wincobank Common where he will be running parallel activities where you are welcome to drop-in and design your own ‘iron wheel’ for stencilling onto flags and banners.

WINCOBANK NEWS

FOWH reenactors meet the Look North team.

Rather than pass on the news this edition it’s more a matter of reporting on how Wincobank has been in the news. With articles in the Guardian, Cyclists weekly and the BBC there can surely be no other time that Wincobank has been the focus for so much media attention. This is set to increase by Sunday as the Hill becomes probably the most critical climb in the whole Uk section of the Tour de France! For this edition only lets concentrate on ebing the news rather than reading it!!

On Shared Ground

Linking Wincobank Hill Fort to Cardiff and Aberdeen

Since February this year, Friends of Wincobank Hill have been working with researchers at the Universities of Sheffield, Cardiff and Aberdeen to create a film documenting what the hill forts in their communities mean to them.

The aim of the project is to explore how local residents value the hills in their communities. In Wincobank, many residents are keen to understand more about the history and archaeology of the hill fort, whilst others use the hill to walk their dogs, ride their bikes, play with their children or spend time with friends.

Local resident John Francis shared his memories of the hill: “My father worked at Grimesthorpe. If it was a nice evening and he had a long shift he would stop off on the hill and have a kip in the woods. You couldn’t see much because of the smog then – but it’s a lovely view now.”

The film brings together stories and memories from communities who also have hillforts in Cardiff, Aberdeen and Sheffield to highlight the range of ways the hill forts are used and understood.

What are your memories of the Wincobank Hill? What does the hill fort mean to you?

There will be a free public screening of the film on Saturday July 26th. For more information about the project or the film screening, contact Kimberley Marwood at the University of Sheffield k.marwood@sheffield.ac.uk 0114 2222953

POET’S CORNER

Mind Jenkin by Byron Cowling

Legs burning
Face gurning
Sweat pouring
Stomach turning

Breath here
Crowds cheer
Change gear
Head clear
More pace
Cool face
More space
Big chase

Newsletter submissions are welcome at any time, but deadlines for each issue are 1st Nov and 1st May each year.

Contributions can be sent in any format (hand-written, typed, email, floppy disk, CD-ROM, etc).

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