

FARCYCLES LIMITED

Enabling cycling to thrive in our community



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has been one of many achievements for FarCycles, the Faringdon-based cycling organisation.

Undoubtedly the highlight has been the building of the Faringdon Cycle Park, with the official opening by Mayor Mike Wise and other dignitaries in July 2019. Our biggest benefactor was the European Union with a



LEADER grant for Rural Development, but we are most grateful to Faringdon Town Council, who have been so very supportive every step of the way – from letters of support for the project in the early days and putting forward the planning application, to financial help with a Youth Grant for the

rubberised beginners area, and a generous Town Grant including free use of the Corn Exchange for our Music Mayhem fund-raising weekend. To see a video of the making of the Cycle Park, click [here](#)

The Cycle Park involved many local people in its conception, design and implementation. Artists painted the storage container and we had valuable help from horticulture experts and local builders, as well as numerous volunteer working parties. We also now have a bank of qualified trainers to teach children and adults, from beginners through to road safety, to leading rides. We have run 4 teaching weeks during school holidays which have proved immensely popular, with families travelling significant distances to avail themselves of the facilities. Our Sunday morning teaching sessions had just re-started when the pandemic



hit. During the lockdown, the Cycle Park has been treated as an 'open space' where families can exercise while maintaining social distancing.

Our regular Saturday rides are of course now suspended, but were becoming ever more popular, with over 200 on our email circulation list.

Typically, 30-40 would choose between the 3 different length routes, all supported with a leader. We have had younger riders joining us as well, which is encouraging for the future.



During 2019 we had a significant number of beginner and less confident riders, and families, come to our Sunday morning rides, which we see as an introduction to group riding in our beautiful local countryside. There has been a new enthusiasm for cycling during the lockdown, and we are confident that local cycling will flourish.

Farcycles was heavily involved in 'Turning the Town Pink' in June 2019 for the International Women's Bike Race which passed through Faringdon.

Our annual 'Tour de Farcycles' sportive brings about 200 riders to the



town, with family-friendly through to seriously challenging routes in our glorious countryside. The whole event is run by volunteers from the club and the surplus goes to funding local cycling projects.

OUR VISION

Our vision is of a less car-dependent society, for all the well-established reasons of personal physical and mental health, reduced air pollution and climate change. We continue to press for improved infrastructure to make it easier and safer to get around the town by bicycle:

- The Faringdon Cycle Network, which is awaiting permissions from District and County councils, to link the schools, town centre, health centre and the sports park.
- We are lobbying for a shared use cycle path along Park Road to make it safe to cycle to the shops along there.
- Progress towards a 20mph zone in the Town Centre is being made.
- A 'Bike Hub' is being created in the Southampton St Car Park with a Bike Repair Station (funded by District Council) and local walking/cycling maps.

Farcycles became a Charity, registered by the Charity Commission, in January 2020.

Thank you once again to Faringdon Town Council for your support.

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Registered Charity 1186837