

Volunteer mountain bike track building in Gisburn Forest

A cold frosty winter's Sunday morning, "perfect for a good breakfast in bed" you might say, not for the Gisburn forest trail builders a volunteer group from quite a large radius around Gisburn Forest. The trail builders have been hand building way marked trails around Gisburn Forest for about 3 years now, there are many volunteers and each build day you would expect 20 people give or take a few.

This particular morning we were resurfacing the Hully Gully section, a black graded trail, which had given way with the amount of cyclists using it over the past year. The trail builders all started to arrive at about 10.00 am and all the picks, shovels, spades and barrows were taken from the trailer and enthusiastic builders set to work. All the stone was barrowed down to be levelled out on the trail to shed the water and enhance the cyclists adrenalin rush as they speed down the trail.

As the hours pass by there is chatter everywhere about where to dig next, what needs a repair, what new features can we place on the trail, it all gives us a sense of ownership and pride knowing that cyclists will ride it and enjoy certain bits (some better than others) and talk about them whilst having a well earned brew later in the café.

