

## My Favourite Place by Bike:

I want to nominate The Coalgate, a pub in Ormiston, near Tranent (EH35 5HN), opened in 1958. It is approximately 30 miles from Edinburgh. I cycle there either along the Pencaitland Railway Path or direct from Tranent. It is open 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.

## Why it's my favourite place by bike...

I like to cycle to The Coalgate because it is situated in an interesting village – with pre-Reformation Church, an unusual Mercat Cross and a monument to Robert Moffat, a missionary and explorer. Ormiston is Scotland's first planned village and, in fact, has 24 listed buildings. With all that history, a visit to the pub is essential for refreshment and debate.

We always get a great welcome from Lorraine or Loraine, note the different spelling. In June this year, we asked for a pot of tea and to our delight, cupcakes iced in red, white and blue were served, free of charge. On another occasion, they were happy to provide sandwiches for twenty people at an hour's notice and those of our group who had brought a picnic were welcome to eat with us in the good-sized beer-garden.

The local customers were very friendly - sharing with us stories of life in the village.

The bar is quite big, well furnished with a pleasant décor and several photos of village life, past and present.

I would like to mention that The Coalgate is not the only pub in Ormiston. However, it is certainly my first choice.

