

# FIVE RISE CAFÉ, BINGLEY

The Five Rise Café, like many other waterside eateries, owes its success to its location. Situated at the top of the famous Bingley Five Rise locks in West Yorkshire, the proximity of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal is what brings in the customers.

It is based in a historic stable building and sees visitors from all over the world mingling with locals over a cup of tea and a slice of home-baked cake. Marcus Dearden, who runs the café with his wife and daughters, says the business has gone from strength to strength in the 11 years they have been managing it. When they first started it was only viable to open in summer, but they now operate for 12 months of the year because of the number of cyclists and walkers using the towpath.

Marcus recalls that in their first year the canal and towpath were closed for repairs to the nearby lock flight. An open weekend held for people to visit the locks during the works saved the café – the number of visitors in that one weekend made up for those who couldn't come while the canal towpath was closed. More recently, although 20 weeks of trading were lost due to Covid-19 lockdowns, the café made up for it thanks to the sheer numbers of visitors once they were able to reopen, with more and more people using the towpath and staying local.

Marcus says the café, which employs four full-time and six part-time staff, just wouldn't survive if it wasn't for its canalside location.

**“ We get about 2,000 boats a year now, which is fantastic. They all spend money, which means well over £1m of additional spend in the area.**

**- Jack Hegarty, then managing director,  
Wychavon District Council  
(restoration of the Droitwich Canal)**

