

The Spoke

A Parish Pump Supplement produced by Hatherleigh Town Council - September 2009

Hatherleigh: Best Start in Devon



Well, there are barely 3 weeks before the prestigious Tour of Britain hits town for a breathless few hours on the morning of Friday 18th September.

Cycling - and the **Tour of Britain** - is growing rapidly in popularity and thousands of people are expected

to be watching the 96 riders in the peloton as they stream out of the market at 10.15 on Stage 7 of their UK tour.

Sponsored by Devon and Somerset County Councils, Stages 6 (it finishes in Bideford the night before) and Stage 7 reflect that the South West is perfect for cycling - not just on the roads but off-road and on mountain bike trails too. The two County Councils are aiming to create a cycling legacy to benefit the local economy and environment. It's part of a long term investment to not only make the two counties the home of cyclists, but also for the area to become THE destination for cycle tourism.

Partnership:

One innovation is the partnership with the **South West Bike**

Academy. Riding as the Qoroz-Novatec team the riders are from the South West and have

an average age of 19. They are Ed Griffin, Ben Stockdale, Matt Ullmar, Josh Yetman, Luke Dunbar and Greta Junker. The Academy has been visiting schools, encouraging children to take up cycling as well as talking about health, nutrition and the environment. It's hoped that such visits will help create a new generation of cyclists.

The two County Councils also hope to build on the success of last year's stage in Devon and Somerset when an estimated 107,000 spectators watched.

We look forward to seeing the Bike Academy in Hatherleigh - it's the best place to start cycling in Devon!

Geoff Hodgkinson: 07831 138 318 or geoff@ggh.co.uk

Advance warning Road Closures on 18th September

From 04.30 - 13.00: access road from supermarket to market car park, in and around sheep sculpture.

From 08.00 - 12.00: Bridge Street from the junction of High Street to the bridge.

From 09.30 - 10.30: Across the bridge and along the A386 to football ground as needed.

(Access to the Town from the north and east will be possible).

Parked Cars

The race starts at the Sheep Sculpture. The riders then proceed down Bridge Street and over the bridge. Please ensure no cars are parked on these roads between 09.00 and 10.45. There will also be some parking restrictions in Bridge Street from the night of the 17th. Please watch for 'no parking' signs and co-operate for the benefit of Hatherleigh. Thank you.

www.southwesttourofbritain.co.uk

www.hatherleigh.net

www.tourofbritain.co.uk

What's happening on the 18th?

04.30 - 13.00 ACCESS ROAD BY SUPERMARKET CLOSED

04.30 onwards: The Tour crew sets up by the Sheep Sculpture, and roadside barriers and hospitality areas are laid out.

16 pantechnicons, one for each of the teams in the event, pull into the market area and park.

There will be considerable Tour traffic in and around the market area and the Sculpture and they don't have

much time to complete their work - please try not to get in anyone's way at this point.

08.00 - 12.00: BRIDGE STREET CLOSED. A gyratory route around the north and east of the town is open.

08.30 onwards: The full Tour spectacle is open for spectators and enthusiasts to enjoy. You can mingle with technical staff as they make their last minute preparations, look at the bikes and maybe even chat to a rider or two.

09.00 - 09.15: The riders arrive and begin signing in.



09.30 - 10.30: A386 ROAD CLOSURE from the bridge to the football ground as needed.

09.30: Pre-race entertainment starts. Find a good vantage in Bridge Street early. We're expecting 2000+ spectators. If there are no barriers then please stay on the pavements and keep the road clear.

09.30: Hatherleigh's famous Tar Barrel team is pulling the barrels

(not flaming, for insurance reasons) along Bridge Street as trials biker Andrei Burton jumps them. He says he can stop on top as they are moving! Maybe

he'll even do a wheelie or two, who knows? All we know is he's a bike magician and you can expect some serious action as you wait for the mini-procession and the peloton to stream past.

09.45: The mini-carnival procession leaves from the START line along the peloton route to the roundabout. If there are substantial crowds on the A386 it will continue down to the football ground. See parade details in separate box.

Presentation of jerseys to the previous day's winners on podium near the Sheep Sculpture.

10.15: Stage 7 of the 2009 Tour starts by the Sheep Sculpture. The riders go down Bridge Street, over the bridge and then towards Okehampton.

10.45: Trials Biker Andrei Burton puts on a special display in The Square.

PLEASE NOTE: The peloton **DOES NOT RACE** at the start. The start is 'neutral', which means for a few km the riders warm up and check that all equipment is working. It also means the departure is relaxed and there's more time to see the riders. Find a good vantage point in Bridge Street.

Racing proper starts at Lamerton Cross - that's the junction of the A3072 and the A386, about 5km from Hatherleigh and just before Folly Gate.

Did you know? That Hatherleigh is the smallest town in Devon, and also (it is believed) the smallest place from where a Tour stage has started?

SAFETY ADVICE

The peloton has 96 riders, and a large number of vehicles accompany it. We expect big crowds to watch their departure. Be careful at all times and follow instructions from police, stewards and marshals, particularly in and around Bridge Street and the A386.

Who's doing what?

How local businesses are 'getting involved'.

Jane from **The Pottery**, in **Market Street**, is making 10 'Tour of Britain' plates for presentation to race winners and dignitaries. She tells us that she is also making limited edition commemorative mugs for sale on the day from a stall.

Pete, at **Pete's Home Bake**, in **Bridge Street**, is planning to bake one of his special bread displays, depicting the Tour of Britain and two bikes. It will be shown on the podium during the pre-race jersey presentations.

Okehampton Cycles, of **North Road**, **Okehampton**, is providing the helmets worn by the children on the 'biggest bike in the smallest town' float in the pre-race procession.

Forest Crafts, of **Lower Upcott Farm**, is providing two Shire Horses to pull a wagon in which our Carnival Royalty will be riding. Owner Ben May tells us that the horses are two brothers called Tom and Red.

Vintage and Fun Bikes are from Philip Jenkinson, a collector from Shebbear.

Flowers on the podium are presented by Audrey and Gordon Reynolds and sourced from local suppliers.

The Mini-Carnival procession at 09.45

(Get to your vantage point early)

Ros Chard

Hatherleigh's Town Crier, and officially the loudest Lady crier in the world in 2007.

The award-winning Hatherleigh Silver Band

Hatherleigh Carnival Royalty
riding in Wagon pulled by two Shire Horses, Tom and Red

Children riding vintage bikes

Primary School children riding their own bikes.

'The biggest bike in the smallest town'

A special crepe paper float from the Hatherleigh Carnival boys and girls, featuring a 3m high racing bike.

Hatherleigh Carnival

Hatherleigh Carnival began in 1903. The **flaming Tar Barrels** are pulled through the streets of the Town twice - once to open Carnival Day at 5am and then after the **Carnival Procession** at around 9.30pm. A torch frame carrying 12 torches leads the evening procession at 7pm and 52 torches accompany the floats through the town. There are many superb **crepe paper floats**, each hand-crafted and kept secret until Carnival Day, plus loads of other floats from the Town and elsewhere. The **Eggesford Hunt** meets in the morning, after which there's a **Town Criers'** competition. Shops decorate their windows and there's an **afternoon procession** when the Queen, Prince and Princess are crowned. A **fancy dress competition** is held for the 'guys' who parade in the afternoon procession.

Don't miss the 2009 Carnival - it's on Saturday November 14th.

Snippets: Plans are in hand for a **Scarecrow Competition** on the 18th. More details in Parish Pump or from Leslie Winser on 811874. We've heard from Steve at the **Bridge Inn** that he will have live music on the patio during the evening of the 17th.

The band is StemRoach - 'Rock with Style & Attitude' - who start at 8.30pm. There will be a 'Bike Themed' Fancy Dress competition with prizes. Ady at the **Tally Ho!** also says he will have live music that night. Should be lively!

MAP AND TIMETABLE

