

View from the Vicarage

Friday 4th May and the second day of the Tour de Yorkshire men's race heading from Barnsley Town Hall to finish in Ilkley. A long day for those cyclists, but that's what they do.

I watched on TV as they set off from Barnsley and then took up my spot opposite the vicarage awaiting the arrival of the peloton.

Rev. Maureen had opened the church in the morning for the use of the Tour Stewards – somewhere for them to get together, take a rest and have a cup of tea. It was much appreciated.

The weather was superb; the cherry trees were in full bloom and the High Street was looking magnificent with bunting throughout – “well done “ to all those volunteers who assisted Karen (the Parish Council Clerk) with the bunting and thanks also to the Red Lion, Bells Steakhouse and local residents for their efforts to decorate their premises. At the other end of the village, the pharmacy decorated cycle wheels were attached to the handrail.

The children from Cliff Nursery were all sitting on the (thankfully dry) grassy area next to the Health Centre and plenty of people gathered along the High Street in anticipation of the race heading through our village on the way from Cawthorne to Penistone.

The waiting crowds were not short of refreshments; the church had a stall with hot drinks and homemade cakes, whilst the pharmacy staff, were, distributing very tasty homemade samosas and snacks. There was a wonderful community atmosphere.

The helicopter over Cawthorne and the plethora of police motor cycle outriders keeping the High Street clear let us know the peloton was approaching. And they arrived like a whirlwind!

A fantastic, colourful peloton which was passed through in seconds, followed by a cavalcade of team support vehicles topped with replacement cycles which came whizzing through.

.....and then they were gone.

I retreated to the vicarage and watched the live coverage on ITV4 as the riders headed off towards Hoylandswaine bank.

Well done Silkstone for delivering tremendous support for the event - it was a treat to experience it and a superb day all round.

Watching recorded coverage on ITV4 later, the aerial shots from the helicopter of the peloton heading along Cawthorne Lane and into the village and past the church were spectacular and I won't be deleting them any time soon. Truly a day to remember.