

WOOD VIEW NEWS

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A Reet Grand Depart!....



Well, after all the hype and excitement about the 2014 Tour de France Grand Depart coming to Yorkshire, the event certainly lived up to expectations and even the weather behaved itself. Tens of thousands of spectators lined the route of both stages, villages were full of bunting, polka dot painted houses and yellow bicycles, as well as a few flocks of multi coloured sheep along the way!

Wood View was, predictably, full of cyclists for the weekend and a group of us rode over to watch the publicity caravan and peloton ride up Wharfedale, with Sue providing us with a picnic lunch in the sunshine – all in all a perfect day out. To capture a flavour of the event, there is an excellent short video of the Grand Depart on the Welcome to Yorkshire web site at <http://letour.yorkshire.com/>



Due to the overwhelming success of the event, Welcome to Yorkshire, the Amaury Sports Organisation and British Cycling are to create the Tour de Yorkshire, which will run for the first time in May 2015 and will be a new race on the international elite calendar and contribute to the cycling legacy for Yorkshire.

After a couple of failed attempts, David finally got to the Alps in July with his mountain bike and a group of friends to ride the 370 kilometre (230 miles), 13400 metre (43500 feet) of climbing Transalp Route from Oberstdorf to Riva del Garda, arriving home considerably fitter and 5 kgs (11 pounds) lighter than when he left! Now he's just got to decide where to go next year... Very many thanks to the friends and family who helped Sue with breakfasts and bed making at the B&B while David was away enjoying himself.

We have now completed our 10th season at Wood View and once again have had a very busy time, helped by the fact that we have had a fairly dry summer in the Dales, although it seems to be trying to make up for it now. The refurbishments that were planned for last winter are complete, with new carpets in all the bedrooms as well as heated towel rails and new toiletries. However, the work never really stops on a house of this age and we are now looking at re-decorating some of the ground floor rooms and are considering replacing all the windows on the front of the house, which are showing signs of age and need rather more than another coat of paint!

We are also delighted to have retained our Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor for 2014, rated 1 of 6 in Austwick and have many (though not all!) encouraging and complimentary reviews from guests. The most talked about features this year have been the beams in the top rooms, which people either love or hate. Reviewers have even started to disagree with each other on the matter and they have gained such a level of notoriety now that visitors actually ask for the rooms that have them, because they want to sleep in a bedroom that has character rather than somewhere that could be in a Travel Lodge or a Premier Inn! It just goes to prove that you can't please everyone, no matter how hard you might try.

In last year's newsletter we mentioned The National Park 3 Peaks app, which gives descriptions and OS 1:50,000 maps for the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. We are seeing increasing numbers of people completing the route, so thought it would be useful to remind you that this facility is available to download to either iPhone or Android mobiles. There are route descriptions and OS maps showing suggested mountain bike routes around each of the peaks and the app is packed with geolocated places of interest (POIs) which range from archaeological sites through to nature reserves, so you can discover even more about the area when you visit. There are also stunning 360° panoramas from the summits; an augmented reality 'toposcope' for each of the three peaks; advice on what to wear and what equipment to bring; information on travel, accommodation and places to eat. Full details can be found at <http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/threepeaks/3peaksapp>

Life in Austwick continues much the same as always, although there have been a few changes and those of you who visit regularly will be surprised to see some new faces at the shop and post office, as John & Christine Hooley have retired after running the business very successfully for the past nine years. The new owners, Mike & Sue, with their daughter Beth, have thrown themselves into the business and are working hard just trying to remember everyone's names, but we are thankful that we have managed to keep this vital part of the village when so many have closed in the area in recent years.

Having had a few health problems to deal with over the last few years, Sue has been determined to get back to full fitness this year and set herself the challenge of climbing each of the Yorkshire 3 Peaks. On October 22nd she reached the summit of Penyghent, having already climbed Ingleborough in July and Wharfedale in September, thereby achieving her ambition and is now looking for another challenge.

We wish you all compliments of the season and a successful, prosperous and healthy 2015 and hope to see some of you on your next visit to the Yorkshire Dales.

**David & Sue
Wood View
Austwick**

