



MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: Tuesday, 1 July 2014 – see below for full details

MASHAM TOUR DE FRANCE CAIRN TOASTED IN LOCALLY BREWED BEER

The 101st Tour de France will first enter the Harrogate district as the peloton reaches Masham on Saturday, 5 July. That is why the town was chosen to receive a stunning stone cairn celebrating this fantastic event for the county.

The idea for the cairn came from dry stone waller Scott Winship who has created it for free to celebrate the Tour.

Harrogate Borough Council approached Masham Parish Council to find a location for the cairn believing the town was the right place to receive it. And with some nifty joined-up thinking, the cairn is doubling up as a new honesty box for the Market Place car park.

The cairn will sport a stunning Yorkshire Rose finial linking it to the **Yorkshire Grand Départ**

Councillor Phil Ireland, Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and External Affairs said: "This was an exceptionally generous gesture from Scott Winship and we were delighted to accept it.

"Scott has created a remarkable piece and I am delighted that Masham was chosen as its location. In modern times, cairns are often erected as landmarks. The place the Tour entered our district is such an event that warrants this incredible landmark which I hope will remain for centuries to come."

The cairn will be officially unveiled on Tuesday 1 July 2014 and as local breweries Black Sheep and Theakstons have done so much to make Masham's hosting of the Tour de France such a success, a glass or two of Tour de Wot? and Velo will be raised at the ceremony.

Nick Reed, Co-ordinator of the Masham Grand Départ Steering Group said: "This cairn is going to be an attractive asset to the town and will certainly serve as a reminder of the Tour coming through Masham long after the cyclists have left."

Scott Winship, has done miles and miles of dry stone walling for which Yorkshire is rightly famous, but he has long dreamed of getting into more bespoke work and to show his artistic and creative skills too. He added: "A number of years ago, I was lucky enough through my brother to salvage the fantastic octagonal stone which we have used as the Yorkshire Rose finial."

Photo opportunity: 10.00 am Tuesday, 1 July 2014 Masham Market Square. The Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate (Cllr Jim Clark) and Masham Parish Council Chairman (Cllr Andrew Burrell) will perform the unveiling ceremony. They will be introduced by Town Crier John Todd.

Note to editors: Scott Winship, who is based in Clothierhome, Ripon, is a time-served, versatile and creative dry stone waller, he is registered with the Dry Stone Walling Association under its Yorkshire Branch. He works in Yorkshire and further afield and also regular holds training classes at locations between Skipton and Masham. More information <http://www.winshipwalling.co.uk/>

Media contact: Lynne Mee, Communications Manager (Tour de France) Harrogate Borough Council 01423 556022/07702 313776 email: lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk Lynne can provide photographs of the garden after the opening ceremony, please email her if you would like a copy.

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