



# THE TOUR DE FRANCE IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

SUNDAY 8 JULY 2007

**Tunbridge Wells**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

# FOREWORD

Tunbridge Wells should be very proud that the Tour de France is, once again, about to grace our roads. With countless towns and cities in Europe bidding to be part of the world's greatest annual sporting event, it is a testimony to the hard work of the officers and members of our Borough Council that we are once again part of the 'Route de Tour'. From London to the 'Elysian Fields' of Paris, the peloton of 200 riders will battle for supremacy in what is widely regarded as sport's greatest test of physical endurance and bravery. For nearly three weeks these gladiators of the road will average over 100 miles each day that will see them climb the Alps and the Pyrenees, often in extremes of heat and cold, and then descend at speeds of nearly 70 miles per hour on tyres no wider than your thumb. You will be thrilled by the spectacle of a charging mass of riders sprinting for a stage finish in pursuit of the immortality of being the winner of a prestigious stage. The competitors will often survive the bloodiest of crashes and doggedly struggle to finish the day within the time limits to fight another day.

This is the greatest free show on earth and for one day in July it will be our gift. Our lovely borough, with its special towns and villages, will be brought to a televised audience of billions across the globe. The economic benefits will be enormous for our region with millions of pounds being spent in our hotels and retail businesses by supporters of the great race. The caravan of publicity vehicles that precedes the race is a wonderful spectacle with lots of freebies for all, so make sure that you reserve your place at the roadside. Enjoy the day, raise a cheer for sport's gladiators of the road, and join us in celebrating our success.

**Cllr Paul Barrington-King**

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## LINKS

Official site of the Tour de France visit to the UK:  
[www.tourdefrancelondon.com](http://www.tourdefrancelondon.com)

Official Tour de France website: [www.letour.fr](http://www.letour.fr)

Kent County Council:  
[www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tour-de-france](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/tour-de-france)

Transport for London: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)



# THE TOUR DE FRANCE

The world's greatest free annual sporting event is coming to our borough on Sunday 8 July. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is working with other organisations including Kent County Council and Transport for London to bring this fantastic free spectacle past your door. Years of planning will all come together for this UK stage of the race that will start in London.

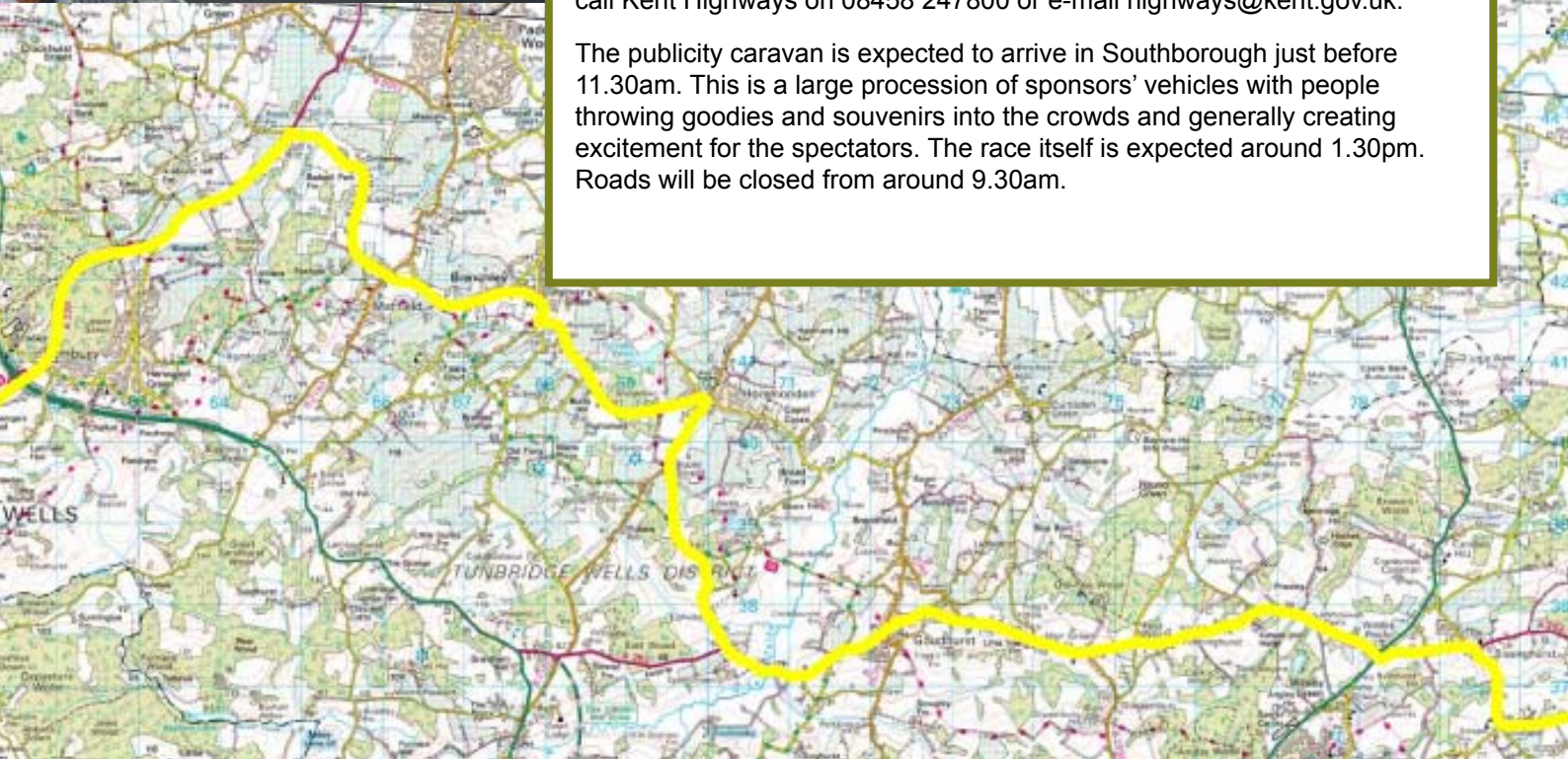
The three-day extravaganza begins with the opening ceremony in Trafalgar Square on Friday 6 July, and continues with the prologue time trial around the streets of the capital on Saturday 7. On Sunday 8 the focus shifts to Kent when Stage One of the race travels across the county, through Tunbridge Wells and Goudhurst and finishes against the historic backdrop of Canterbury Cathedral.

Transport planners and the emergency services have made sure that the race will cause as little disruption as possible, but there will inevitably be some inconvenience to drivers and residents as Kent welcomes one of the greatest free sporting events to its streets. We have printed a map here that shows the route the race will take. Because of the need to keep the riders, spectators and general public safe, the Tour takes place on completely closed roads, which means that affected roads will be closed for several hours. Alternative routes will be signed, and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council have already provided detailed advice and information to people living on the route.

The race enters Tunbridge Wells borough at Southborough, travels along the A26 into the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells down Grosvenor Road, Mount Pleasant, into Crescent Road and out via the Pembury Road to Matfield, Brenchley, Horsmonden, Goudhurst, and Sissinghurst and then enters Ashford borough.

For a detailed list of streets affected and for additional information please call Kent Highways on 08458 247800 or e-mail [highways@kent.gov.uk](mailto:highways@kent.gov.uk).

The publicity caravan is expected to arrive in Southborough just before 11.30am. This is a large procession of sponsors' vehicles with people throwing goodies and souvenirs into the crowds and generally creating excitement for the spectators. The race itself is expected around 1.30pm. Roads will be closed from around 9.30am.



# HISTORY OF THE TOUR

The Tour de France started in 1903 as the personal brainchild of Frenchman Henri Desgrange, as a stunt to help promote his sports newspaper l'Auto (ancestor of the present l'Équipe).

Originally riders competed as individual athletes, with no one to help them prepare food or arrange accommodation – they were even required to cycle through the night. This is an incredible feat when you consider the original race comprised just six stages instead of today's around 20, while still covering thousands of kilometres.

When the Tour de France began in 1903, men delicately waved their hats and women waved their umbrellas in appreciation. The winner, Maurice Garin, rode so fast on his fixed gear 15kg bike, he reached the finish before the judges!

Just over a century later, in the midst of an extraordinary carnival atmosphere, that attracts up to two billion television viewers worldwide and over 15 million roadside spectators, men have been known to wave pink feather boas at the riders or to bound along next to the peleton dressed as the Devil. This is because, unlike any other sporting event of its size, the Tour de France spills out on to the streets and reaches out to embrace ordinary people. Everyone in the communities it visits has the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the greatest athletes in the world.

Although riders today are much more technically accomplished than they were a hundred years ago, their character remains essentially the same – battling against incredible hardship and suffering to secure victory. Indeed, legendary Texan Lance Armstrong beat cancer to achieve an astonishing seven straight victories from 1999 to 2005.

At the 1989 Tour de France, with 40 shotgun pellets remaining in his body from a hunting accident two years earlier (including some in the lining of his heart), another American, Greg LeMond, began the final stage, an individual time trial finishing in Paris. LeMond attacked from the start to claim his second yellow jersey with a final victory margin of eight seconds – the closest in the Tour's history.

## WHY ARE THERE LOTS OF DIFFERENT JERSEYS?



Coloured jerseys are awarded at the end of each stage with different colours signifying different awards.

Most people know that the yellow jersey is worn by the overall leader of the tour, which means the rider with the fastest overall time, but what about the others?



A green jersey is awarded to the cyclist with the most sprint points gained during that stage. Points are won by finishing in the top three at the end of the stage, as well as some intermediate points during each stage.



A white jersey with red dots is known as the hill climber jersey or polka dot jersey and is awarded to the cyclist who gained the most climbing points. Points are awarded to the first few cyclists to reach the summit of each climb section in a stage, with more points awarded to more difficult climbs.



There is also a white jersey for the fastest young cyclist (under 25).

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## PARKING YOUR CAR

**There will be no parking along the route.**

Please be considerate when parking your vehicle elsewhere, and be sure to leave room for emergency vehicles.

## CAFES

The cafes in our parks – Calverley Grounds and Dunorlan – will be open from 8am for breakfast.

If you're heading to Royal Tunbridge Wells, why not beat the rush and get in early?

## Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre

will be open and it will be business as usual. Access by car will be impossible between 9.30am and 2pm whilst the race passes. Why not see what the centre has to offer and spend a little time there whilst you wait for the race to pass? Visit [www.fusion-lifestyle.com](http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com) for details of what's on offer.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The race can only be brought to the borough with the support of other organisations.

**Kent Police** is working with partner agencies, including other emergency services, to ensure you continue to have an effective policing service throughout the Tour de France.

Remember to be safe and take care when you are out enjoying the Tour de France celebrations.

- *Remember to close windows and lock up your home before going out.*
- *Take care of your personal belongings when out and about – in particular high value items such as mobile phones and media players.*
- *Don't leave valuables in your car, including satellite navigation equipment.*
- *Don't drink and drive. If you are going out and planning on drinking alcohol, nominate a designated driver.*
- *Plan your journey to and from the Tour de France. Check the route of the event and associated road closures on [www.kent.gov/tourdefrance](http://www.kent.gov/tourdefrance) before you set out on your journey.*

If you need to report an incident contact Kent Police on 01622 690690 or go to your nearest police station. If it is an emergency call 999.

**Kent Fire and Rescue Service** (KFRS) is working closely alongside the other emergency services, local authorities and race organisers to

ensure a coordinated approach during the Tour de France event in Kent on Sunday 8 July.

The route covers 106 miles in Kent which means planning is very detailed and differs from area to area, depending on the specific nature of the race at any particular point in the county.

As a result, they will have a range of measures in place to ensure fire service provision will not be affected. This includes relocating appliances, equipment and crews from fire stations which are on race roads, and the strategic placement of resources to other areas which may be affected by road closures.

They can also reassure the public that in the event of an emergency, race roads will be reopened to 999 vehicles.

KFRS's Director of Emergency Planning, Bill Welsh, said, 'We are putting together a specific plan which will focus on ensuring that our appliances and crews are well placed so that the public continue to receive our service.'

*'However, the public can help us by keeping themselves and their family safe during the day and by following these easy safety tips: don't be distracted by the race and leave cooking unattended; make sure you have a working smoke alarm; and avoid travelling near the race routes.'*

For more information, visit the KFRS website at [www.kent.fire-uk.org](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org).

**Local Health Services** are getting ready for the Tour de France as it comes through Tunbridge Wells to

ensure that normal NHS services are ready and available to the people of the borough. The West Kent Primary Care Trust, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, and the Ambulance Service, along with the other emergency services and local authorities are working together to ensure services are maintained as usual.

Both Kent & Sussex and Pembury Hospitals will be affected by restricted access during the race. Access to emergency ambulances will be maintained at all times and extra staff will be on duty throughout the day.

Local health services across West Kent will be coordinated by a special control room based in the Emergency Ambulance Control Centre at Coxheath where teams from the NHS will work with the emergency services throughout the day.

You can access the NHS on the day in the normal way:

- *In an EMERGENCY call 999 and ask for the Ambulance Service.*
- *Health advice can be obtained by calling NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or by going online at [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk). Your normal GP out of hours arrangements will apply and can be accessed as usual.*

If you need to take regular medication the Trust advises you to ensure that you have adequate supplies. Also, if you need to visit friends or relatives in hospital, hospice or nursing home, please plan your visits preferably for the day before as many of the roads will be closed and traffic may be extremely heavy.

Look out for special information in the local press during the week leading up to the event for more detailed information from the NHS.

# COUNTDOWN GIVES CYCLING A BIG PUSH

Kent County Council are marking the Tour de France coming to the county with the launch of a new campaign – Go Cycle Kent.

Go Cycle Kent will showcase the county as a top two-wheeled visitor destination and is aiming to persuade residents of all ages to enjoy the freedom and fun of safe cycling. The summer means that already thousands of local cyclists are getting their bikes out of the garage and heading out on to Kent's country lanes, cycle paths or going off road.

And with the Tour de France coming to Kent, it is hoped the excitement and interest generated by the visit of the world's largest annual sporting event will inspire even more people to get out and about safely on their bikes.

The campaign includes a website – [www.gocyclekent.co.uk](http://www.gocyclekent.co.uk) – containing a range of health information, facts and figures, as well as maps of cycle routes across the county.

There is also a series of activities planned, aimed at promoting cycling for people of all ages and abilities.

Roger Gough, KCC Cabinet Member for Regeneration, said,

*'With the Tour there is an enormous opportunity for inspiration and Go Cycle Kent is about creating a legacy for health, the environment and the economy. The great aspect of cycling is that it is not expensive and it is not exclusive. We want everyone of all levels of ability to have a go and discover the wealth of opportunities on their doorstep.'*

It is estimated that the County Council's efforts to bring the Tour to Kent will give a £37 million pound boost to the local economy, with more than 1.5 million people expected to line the 126-mile route on race day.

## CAR PARKS

Most Council car parks in the town will be open for free (except Crescent Road and Dunorlan Park – see below) and specially-produced maps will be available showing suitable access routes in and out.

You can pick up one of these maps from the Town Hall before the day, or download one from our website.

Crescent Road car park will be closed from 8am – 2pm. The Pembury Road car park for Dunorlan Park will be closed all day. Additional car parking will be provided in the events field at Dunorlan Park at a cost of £3 per car. The car park is being run by the Pantiles Rotary. Gates will open at 8.30am with all monies going to the Pantiles Rotary nominated charities.

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## WATCH THE RACE WITH SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern are offering special one and three day Tour de France train tickets on 6, 7 and 8 July, allowing you unlimited travel on all Southeastern services\* during the event. They will also be providing additional services on 8 July.

Roads along the Tour de France route will be closed to ordinary traffic during the race, so travel by train to get close to the action and enjoy a great day out. Tickets are available to buy in advance via the Southeastern website [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk).

1 day ticket: £18

3 day ticket: £34

Tickets will be available for a limited time only.

*\*excluding services between Tonbridge to Redhill*

## DUNORLAN PARK

If you can't face the town centre crowds then come along to Dunorlan Park on 8 July for easy access to excellent viewing points on the Pembury Road as the race heads out of Tunbridge Wells and into the countryside of the borough.

Not only are we giving you the opportunity to see the world's largest annual sporting event in your own town, but after it has passed through you can then go back into the park to see it continue its way on to Canterbury. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has engaged a specialist company to provide a large television screen to show coverage of the whole of Stage One of the race, from the morning start in London to its arrival in Canterbury. As well as the TV screen, we'll have a bbq and other refreshments available, or you could picnic in the park.

Additional parking will be provided in the events field accessed via Halls Hole Road (Hawkenbury end). There will be a charge of £3 per car, with all monies going to the Pantiles Rotary nominated charities. Please note that the car park accessed from Pembury Road will be closed all day. The cafe will be open from 8am for those early birds who wish to breakfast and get in position early for the day.

## EVENTS

Kent County Council have on their website – [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) – all events that are connected in some way with the Tour de France – or you can contact our Tourist Information Centre on 01892 515675, [www.touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:www.touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS MUSEUM

Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery and Library are celebrating the Tour de France passing through the town with a day for the whole family. Come along on Sunday 8 July between 11am – 4pm and join in the fun.

Children can make a fluttering flag to wave for the front-runners. Then get the whole family hunting for the bits of the bike hidden around the Museum and Library. There will also be a special display on cycling past and present from the collections of both the Museum and Library. No booking is required for this event, but children must be accompanied at all times. For more information telephone the Museum and Art Gallery on 01892 554171 or visit [www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org](http://www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org).

## ACCOMMODATION AND VISITOR INFORMATION

The staff at the Tourist Information Centre in the Pantiles would be happy to help find and book accommodation for visiting friends and relatives during the Tour de France and throughout the local area. Just ask for a copy of the Heart of Kent Holiday Guide or, alternatively, visit [www.visitheartofkent.com](http://www.visitheartofkent.com) to book accommodation online. The Centre also stocks a wide range of literature and information on the area including where to see what in the lead up to and during the Tour de France event.

Royal Tunbridge Wells Tourist Information Centre  
The Old Fish Market, The Pantiles  
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TN

01892 515675

[www.touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:www.touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

[www.visittunbridgewells.com](http://www.visittunbridgewells.com)



## SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS

Southborough & District Wheelers, the Tunbridge Wells-based cycling club, is preparing to welcome the passing of the Tour de France with a festival of events throughout the year. The club was established in 1932 and has a membership of predominantly active riders.

The club caters for the majority of cycling disciplines, including road racing, velodrome track riding, grass track racing, and touring, but its roots are secured in time trialling where the majority of its members specialise. Consequently, the club holds time trials almost every week on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings between the months of May to August, at a number of locations just outside Tunbridge Wells. The club is holding a time trial at Groombridge and this is open to anyone who would like to come and try it who has an interest in cycling and may wish to further the pastime competitively.

This will be held on Thursday 28 June 2007 at 7pm and is based on a four mile time trial circuit just south of Groombridge village. You need to be over 12 years old to participate. On the afternoon of Saturday 14 July the club is hosting an event for anyone with a keen interest in cycling, including families. The main feature will be a grass track event. The event is taking place at the St Mark's Recreation Ground on Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, which is where the club is based, and meets every Thursday evening. All the Wheelers ask you to do is bring your bike and/or the family!

For more information on the club and the events it has planned for the year, or to contact a member of the club to find out more, visit [www.southborough-wheelers.co.uk](http://www.southborough-wheelers.co.uk).

## PARK & CYCLE

If you really want to get into the spirit why don't you cycle and ride? Park your car at Bedgebury – they have 1,000 spaces – for the usual £6 parking charge. You can then cycle the three miles to Goudhurst to watch the race and after it has finished you can cycle back and use all the facilities at Bedgebury at no extra charge.

## GOUDHURST – KING OF THE MOUNTAINS

Goudhurst plays host to a 'King of the Mountains' – the village is expected to be very busy so if you are heading there you will need to be very early.

A committee has been working hard to ensure that visitors to the village will be well catered for with food and drink and entertainment. A jazz band will play at The Vine, there will be a bbq in the centre of the village and a viewing platform at the church. Chair of the organising Committee, Dennis Knight, says,

*'We will offer a warm welcome to all those that come to watch the race at Goudhurst. We're delighted that we are hosting the second King of the Mountains.'*

## BUSES

Bus services will be disrupted on Sunday 8 July. The following services are affected:

**77** – no service until after 2.30pm

**277** – no service until after 3pm

**279** – no service

**281** – no service until after 3pm

**298** – no service

## LE JOUR DE FRANCE

On Sunday 8 July, from lunchtime through to the evening, Trinity will be celebrating this very special event with a range of outdoor and indoor events to suit all ages.

During the day, the Youth Theatre will be presenting their very own French-themed show; there'll be live music from French musicians, plenty of opportunities to savour the flavours of French food and wine, all topped off in the evening with a chance to catch the superb animated classic film (heavily featuring bicycles of course!) 'Les Triplettes de Belleville' (Cert 12A). So, after the race, why not pedal the few yards to Trinity for a great day out for all the family. Please call the Box Office on 01892 678678 or check the Trinity website for full details and times [www.trinitytheatre.net](http://www.trinitytheatre.net).

## FRENCH MARKET

The Pantiles is to host a special French Market, which will run from Friday 6 through to Sunday 8 July. On offer will be meats, fruits and vegetables, along with patisserie,

bread, cheeses and other foods. The market stallholders will offer children the opportunity to practise their French and will have bilingual phrase books on hand to help.

For details call Grahame Bell, Secretary of the Association of Pantiles Traders, on 01892 522684.

## SISSINGHURST GETS INTO GEAR FOR THE BIKES...

If the riders in the Tour de France were aware of all the celebrations awaiting them when the Tour de France passes through the village of Sissinghurst, they'd jump off their bikes and enjoy the festivities. Sissinghurst is certainly the place to be if you enjoy food and wine festivals; there will be live music, street entertainers, barn dancing, fun fair and a whole host of other celebrations awaiting the Tour de France riders.

Over a mile of bunting made in the village will decorate The Street, together with British and lots of other flags. So that nothing is missed, the Cranbrook Town Crier will make sure that residents and the expected 3,000 visitors will be well aware of what there is to enjoy. To enable visitors to take part in the celebrations and because the road through Sissinghurst and all along the route will be closed, special car parking areas will be available on approaches to Sissinghurst.

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, CHECK THE  
WEBSITE [WWW.KENT.GOV.UK](http://WWW.KENT.GOV.UK) OR CALL THE  
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE ON 01892 515675