



## The hopes of Le Tour: Oxenhope CofE Primary School

**Dream** - of Yellow, Green, Red and White. Youngsters crouched in front of TV sets listening for their cycling heroes, dreaming of the winding road twisting through turn after turn in glorious foreign lands. Making the race, shaping the race.

**Reality** - a flash of Yellow, Green, Red and White. Young and old clambering for the best viewpoint, heroes lost and found for a new generation. Prepare. Prepare. Prepare. Then over in a breath. The roads that shape the race are now our own and will remain so.

**Legacy** - memories of Yellow, Green, Red and White. School children raising money to keep their



dreams safe, to keep their dreams alive at school and beyond. A new tour passes through and the buzz is shared and taken on anew. Aspirations raised. Momentum gathered needs direction.

It was a grand day in Oxenhope for the Primary

School Bike Shed opening - Gary Verity (now Sir Gary Verity) was guest of honour on June 11th. The school turned out with friends, parents and partners in the community to both celebrate and showcase the work of the cycling club and the fabulous transformation of the bike shed. Drama and poetry highlighted



the event with a dash of good humor all around. Many thanks were expressed by Kathrine Nutting, Headteacher, and John Parkin, Deputy Headteacher, who lead the project. Both were keen to acknowledge the support from many in the community, some of whom were present: John Dennis was there as UAK Cycling Hub Cycle representative, Worth Valley Ward Councillor Russell Brown, Paul Munton and Paul Atkins from Aire Valley Forge, Robin Bradbury from Robin's Nest, the Bronte Tykes coaches, Peter Charlton, and Anthony Gill, and Ken Eastwood from Oxenhope Parish Council as well as others, including parents and carers involved in fundraising.

An interview with Sir Gary Verity, chief of Yorkshire's tourism organisation, Welcome to Yorkshire, and the person responsible for bringing the Tour de France to Yorkshire.

**This year brought The Tour de Yorkshire to our towns and villages. While the fanfair was modest compared to the Tour de France and the weather was variable, the event was nevertheless a triumph and one that will prove to be a lasting legacy for years to come.**

**What other positive things do you see happening as a result of the Tour de France?**

We are working with Yorkshire Bank on Bike Libraries for children. Basically getting people to recycle the bikes their kids have outgrown. Our aim is for every child to have access to a bike regardless of their social or economic background. The fact that you see more people out on their bikes is evidence of the positive legacy of the Tour de France.

It is not just about cycling, its about raising the profile of Yorkshire in general. We

have seen increased visitors, and more money going in to the economy as a result of those numbers going up.

**What part does politics have on legacy?** It is very important that Yorkshire plays a lead role in the Northern Power House and the work we've done with the Tour de France has put us in a good position. Yorkshire is stronger when we unite. There is nothing ever I've seen that has united us like the Tour de France. **Going forward, what else will you do to take Yorkshire to the world?** Cycling and the Tour de Yorkshire will continue to do that as it has a international appeal. We will focus on showcasing the arts & culture of the region, film, food, drink; anything that can be an ambassador for Yorkshire whether it is a person, an artist, a sportsman, or something less tangible, we harness that and highlight it to the world.