

Vive Le Yorkshire!



Photos: John Giles PA News



Welcome to Yorkshire Chief, Gary Verity, and TDF Director, Christian Prudhomme; a bromance made in Yorkshire!

It's not often you'll hear the French and the English singing each other's praises. The age old rivalry between us 'Roast Beefs' and those 'Frogs Legs' goes back centuries, but now it would seem we have finally found something we can both agree on: **Yorkshire is brilliant!**

If you haven't already heard the news, then I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you (very proudly) that Yorkshire has been chosen as the starting point and host of two stages of the Tour de France 2014.

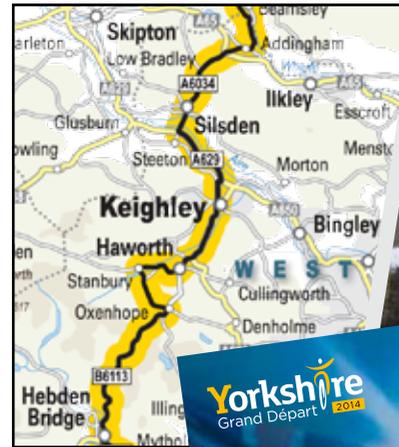
At a press conference to announce the route of 'Le Grand Depart', Christian Prudhomme (general director of the TDF) seemed genuinely blown away by our beautiful county, and cited our scenery and heritage as major reasons for the committee's decision to choose us over other strong contenders such as Edinburgh and Florence. After Team GB's recent exceptional performances in cycling, the organisers of Le Tour said they

were keen to return to the UK 'as soon as possible'.

While the race has been through London and across the South coast before, it has never visited the North of England. It's a phenomenal coup for Welcome to Yorkshire, championed by Chief Exec Gary Verity.

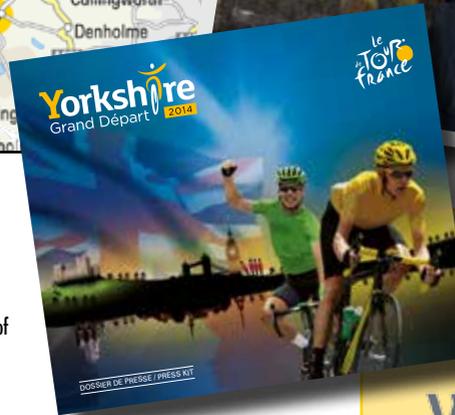
Up to 3 million people are expected to line the streets along the route of the race, which is the biggest annual sporting event in the world, and over 3 billion viewers are expected to watch it on television.

Welcome to Yorkshire is calling this our 'opportunity to welcome the world', and that it will be a 'wonderful advert for our



Detail of Stage 2 TDF2014 route through Worth & Aire Valleys, West Yorkshire.

Map & photo courtesy of www.letour.fr



Above: Stan the sculpture sheep, Liz Barker, Lauren Barker, Elliott Barker, Parish Cllr. John Suckling, Lynda Suckling at entrance to Stanbury village.

county'. Hotels and B&Bs in the area have started getting booked up already, which is an indication of the the boost in tourism that the race will provide for our district. It's our chance to show off!

Plans to hold a cultural festival on the run-up to the festival are underway, and the excitement and coverage of Le Tour is sure to inspire people of all ages to get involved with cycling. Stage 1 starts on 5th July 2014 in Leeds, and goes through Harewood, Otley, Ilkley and Skipton before heading through the Yorkshire Dales and over to Harrogate. Stage 2 begins the next day in York, and continues on to Knaresborough, Silsden, Keighley, Haworth, Oxenhope, Hebden Bridge, Huddersfield and then to Sheffield. Go online to www.letour.yorkshire.com to find out where you can see the race when it arrives; maybe it's even going past your door! (report by @dollypop)

Welcome to Stanbury Le Tour de France

Residents in Stanbury were pleased to find out that their village will be included in the second stage of Le Tour de France Grand Depart in 2014.

Stan, the colourful sculpture sheep that depicts the local landscape and the newly appointed mascot of Stanbury has been placed at the village entrance with a sign reading "Welcome to Stanbury Le Tour de France" Plans are already under way to gather the community and celebrate this unique event.

Stanbury Parish Councillor John Suckling and wife Lynda pose with other village residents to show their excitement and enthusiasm.

"We are delighted to have this world class sporting event include our little Pennine village. We'll be sure to get the bunting out and make the most of it!"

photo by Paul Barker