

NOTES FROM THORNHAM

Tour of Britain, Friday 8th September 2017

On this historic day the Tour crossed the Thornhams on its winding 116 miles journey from Newmarket to Aldeburgh. Elsewhere rain tipped down, but here it stayed commendably dry while the cars, motorbikes and cyclists zipped past. Police had dramatically cleared the route of traffic leaving the lanes lined with excited spectators.

Many thanks to those of you who sent me their stunning photos, some of which are printed in this issue. There are even more on the Messenger's Facebook page (facebook.com/themessengergismeltho) and on the Thornhams village website (thornhams.org).

The 112 riders from 20 teams were led by a breakaway of seven: four GB, two NZ and one Italian. The bulk of the riders, the peleton, were two minutes behind, with a few stragglers at the back, trapped among team cars. In the peleton, wearing the Tour leader's green jersey, was the Dutch rider Lars Boom of the Lotto Jumbo Team who went on to hold the lead and win the Tour, as he had in 2012.

Outside Parva church, in a decorated gazebo, Pete Gudde cycled a virtual version of the day's stage on his static bike – tough going, he said, as he had to pedal all the time, unlike on a real bike where you can occasionally rest as you coast along. He successfully rode the 116 miles in five and a half hours, raising over £700 towards the re-thatching of the church, and over £650 for St Nicholas Hospice in Bury St Edmunds.



BIRD BOXES: Perfect for your garden or as presents, Street Forge Workshops make and sell a wide range, cunningly designed to entice everything from sparrows to barn owls, beautifully made and painted, and reasonably priced. Call Street Forge on 01379 678543 or pop in to see the boxes, with expert advice if needed.

OCTOBER EVENTS IN THE THORNHAMS ● **Sunday 15th:** Apple Day, Walled Garden, 11.30-3.30, free ● **Saturday 21st:** two chances to see the Flying Scotsman, steam train leaves Norwich at 8am for Ipswich and return ● **Friday 27th:** Thornham Village Hall film, 7.30, *Hidden Figures*