



GOLDEN WONDER: Coun. Paul White, Andrew Stephenson MP, Coun. Joe Cooney, Coun. Howard Thomas and Vaughan Jones and Steven Burke with the special banner that will be displayed in Colne in honour of his gold medal at the London Olympics.

■ Exclusive footage of Sunday's "Ride With Brad" event will be premiered at Barnoldswick's Centre Screen Cinema tonight at 6-30pm. A short film produced by local media production company The Reverb Factory, featuring Bradley Wiggins, Steven Burke and some of the thousands of other cyclists who took part in the event, will be shown on the big screen at the Rainhall Centre.

The eight minute newsreel includes shots of the unique Rolls-Royce produced momento presented to Bradley by Barnoldswick Town Council Chairman, Coun. Lindsay Gaskell.

Entrance to the free premiere is open to all and light refreshments will be served. Donations towards the Bradley Wiggins Foundation are welcome.

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Welcome

By WILL COOK

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TIMINGS for Steven Burke's official welcoming ceremony tomorrow:

■ 2pm – Procession sets off from Colne Railway Station.

■ 2-45pm – Official welcome and interview on stage outside Colne Town Hall.

COLNE cycling sensation Steven Burke is set for a hero's welcome tomorrow during his town centre open-top parade.

The former Park High Pupil nicknamed the "Colne Cyclone" will begin at Colne Railway Station at 2pm before heading up Albert Road for a lap of the town centre in an open-top car.

He will then stop at the town hall to be greeted by

the Mayor of Pendle, Coun. Asjad Mahmood, and Pendle Council's Executive Director for Regeneration and President of British Cycling, Brian Cookson, for an interview.

Twenty-four-year-old Burke struck gold at the London Games last month securing a winners' medal along with Ed Clancy, Peter Kennaugh and Geraint Thomas in the men's team pursuit in the Olympic Velodrome.

A special banner has been put up in the town congratulating him on his

More than mod-est

By WILL COOK

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THOUSANDS of people gathered in Barnoldswick on Sunday to ride with Bradley Wiggins, Britain's first winner of the Tour de France.

The 32-year-old newly-crowned Olympic Time Trial gold medallist made a short speech and rang the bell to get the "Ride With Brad" sportive under way at around 7-10am as the first of just over 1,500 riders set off.

A challenging 160km route with 3,122m of climbing over Waddington Fell, the Trough of Bowland, Longridge Fell, Nick of Pendle and Barley Fell greeted the earliest riders while an alternative but very demanding 100km route with 1,940m of climbing - missing out the Northern loop towards Lancaster - was also available.

The ride, organised by Penine Events, had even attracted the attention of Darryl Roberts from Chicago, who had travelled across the Atlantic just to be alongside "Wiggo".

Pendle Council's Executive Director for Regeneration and President of British Cycling, Brian Cookson, was the first rider to set off and it was a family occasion for Wiggins as his wife Catherine and father-in-law Dave Cockram also rode some of the Chorley-based star's favourite training roads.

A cycle show for families with cycling activities for children started on the park at noon and thousands applauded all the riders back into Barnoldswick despite the wet weather, with Wiggins himself finishing shortly after 2pm.

Pendle's Olympic gold medallist, "Colne Cyclone" Steven Burke was also at the park to show his support as well as his medal.

After the sportive, when asked about why Pendle and the Ribble Valley are great places for cycling, Wiggins said: "It's hilly! Where I live in West Lancashire is really flat so I come over here a lot."

"Pendle and the Ribble Valley have got the best training roads in the country, and they're relatively quiet too. The only downside is it's always raining!"



READY FOR THE OFF: Bradley Wiggins on the start line in Victory Park, Barnoldswick.

PHOTOS: Ben Parsons



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been brilliant to see over 1,500 people come to Pendle and ride the local lanes and the crowds cheering on all the riders was incredible to see at a sportive, something that isn't even a race.

"To have our Olympic time trial champion and Tour de France winner in the area is great news."

As well as the sportive, Sunday's "Ride with Brad" event also marked the launch of the cyclist's new charity, the Bradley Wiggins Foundation, which aims to get more people participating in sport at whatever level.

Wiggins said the charity was quite broad at that moment and admitted he had helped a couple of people he knew out of his own pocket in the last 12 months before deciding "let's do this properly to see how many more people we can help".

He said: "I don't know where it's going to go or how big it's going to get, because obviously the success I had this summer is helping it massively which is fantastic."

Earlier in the day, Wiggins had announced he was taking part in the Tour of Britain which begins in Ipswich on Sunday, September 9th.

Cycling fans will have the opportunity to see two stages in the North West however, with stage two beginning in Nottingham and finishing in Knowsley and stage four being a route from Carlisle to Blackpool.

Wiggins said: "The Tour of Britain is always special. Because of where it comes in the year, the Tour of Britain, it's always a celebration of the British Cycling of the year up to that point."

"And this year more than ever it's probably been the most successful year in British Cycling's history so I think this year's Tour of Britain is going to be certainly the most successful Tour of Britain in terms of celebration of British Cycling and everything we have achieved this year."

"That in itself is going to be quite something. I'm not quite sure what to expect really as Cav's (Mark Cavendish) riding it as well so it's going to be a great week regardless of the results."

rode the 160km route, did their own "Tour de France" earlier in the year when they rode as part of a team that cycled from London to Barcelona over a 10-day period.

James said: "It was very hard, tougher than I expected, but good though. I think he planned to put in all the hills he could into 100 miles! I think it's probably the hardest thing I've ever done and harder than the trip earlier in the year."

"He caught us up in Newchurch and it was very inspirational to ride with him, only for about three minutes though! He just flew off again. It was a pretty amazing feeling to be alongside someone who is at the top of their game."

Peter Boast, from Cycle Sport Pendle, said: "It was an excellent day, and from our point of view we got a lot of exposure and expect a big upturn in participation."

"Around 200 youngsters came to us through the day, some local, some from all over the place. We even had a Southern youngsters versus Northern youngsters event as a bit of fun and had Bradley Wiggins' son for about half an hour tearing around our mini-velodrome."

Brian Cookson added: "It's