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In the editor's
shoes



**STAR LETTER
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VOUCHERS
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TOUR OF BRITAIN COMES TO TOWN

Police make a plea to public

"If you see something that is not right, call us," is the message from Axminster-based police who are dealing with an avalanche of break-ins.

■ SEE full story on page 3

£13k Tesco nursery gift

A NURSERY in Seaton has been given a helping hand by Tesco — with a £13k makeover.

■ SEE full story on page 5

Vandalism of 13 cars

THIRTEEN cars were vandalised in a compound at commercial premises in Castle Hill, Axminster.

■ SEE full story on page 3

BY ANDERS LARSSON
anders@indlenews.co.uk

TOUR of Britain 2009 officials remain tight-lipped but county councillors involved in negotiations say the professional cycle race will pass through Axminster and Seaton.

The good news means a golden opportunity for the two towns to enjoy the national media spotlight.

The 2009 race takes place over eight days from Saturday, September 12th to Saturday, September 19th, finishing in London.

County councillors Margaret Rogers and Douglas Hull told this newspaper that one stage of the race will pass through Seaton and Axminster.

Axminster county councillor Douglas Hull said he is delighted that the two towns are to be included.

Councillor Rogers confirmed one stage will go through Seaton and Axminster, and added: "It is a very prestigious event and we are very fortunate to be involved."

Councillor Hull praised councillor Rogers and described her as the county council's "kingpin" in negotiations.

The county council itself was more restrictive with information and would not confirm Axminster and Seaton's involvement.

A spokesperson issued a brief statement saying: "Devon County Council has agreed a four-year contract to host a stage of the Tour of Britain over the next four years starting in September and continuing until 2012."

Tour of Britain officials won't reveal the routes until spring, but a source close to the organisation indicated that cyclists are set to race through Seaton and Axminster on their way to the finishing point in Chard on either September 17th or 18th.

Chard hosted the start of one stage last year and Olympic medallists Bradley Wiggins, Geraint Thomas and Chris Newton were on the starting line and added some extra spice only weeks after their Beijing achievements.

Apart from being a huge sporting event, it was also described as a great opportunity to showcase the town.

Speaking about last year's race as a whole, a Tour of Britain official said: "On television large numbers tuned in for The Tour of Britain highlights each evening on ITV4."

BURNED OUT

PHOTO BY COLIN BOWERMAN



**LATEST
UPDATE
INSIDE**

◆ THE Baptist Church in Kilmington village was severely damaged by fire week. See story on page 3

Rainbow Under 5's Playgroup
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