

WHO THINKS THEY ARE STRONG ENOUGH?

This year's Minehead Cycling Grand Prix will be the best yet. Taking place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June, the Avenue, Blenheim Road and North Road will be closed to all other vehicles. Shoppers and visitors will have the roads and pavements to themselves for the Saturday morning, but by late afternoon a 200 strong contingent of junior cyclists from all over the UK will be lining up to compete in National qualifying races.

In the early afternoon organisers have an opportunity to use the closed roads for other events.

There will be a junior practice relay for the Beacon to Beach race in July. Each of the youngsters will be asked to run the whole of the 1km circuit.

All proceeds from the Beacon to Beach race this year, which is organised by Gateway Events will go towards the Christmas Lights Switch-On Festival. "We hope parents and schools will encourage more children to compete this year. The relay is all about fun and so is the Christmas event" said Bill Howard from Gateway

The other is causing more hesitation. Organisers Minehead BID are wondering whether there is an appetite out there for a traditional fancy-dress wheelbarrow race. There is some doubt that there are competitors strong enough to want to tackle the course, but we want to be proved wrong.

In pairs swapping twice over the 500 metres, participants may find the start half way along North Road into the Avenue relatively easy. But with two beer stops up the Avenue, doubts have been raised that the 20-barrow target that triggers the holding of the event will be reached.

"Perhaps there are farm workers, builders and rugby players who will put their names forward, but do they think they can finish the course just inside Blenheim Road?" muses Boutique owner Debbie Sawatzki a Minehead BID Director who is supporting this element of the afternoon.

"Pushing a loaded barrow on the flat is one thing. Up even the slightest gradient like the Avenue, might prove too much. Thankfully it's not all about strength. We've added a fun element in as well so we are sure the people of Minehead will want to take on this challenge."

To find out more about the Wheelbarrow race or to request an entry form please contact Minehead BID via info@mineheadbid.co.uk Closing date 20th May

ENDS

For more information, contact Graham Sizer, Minehead BID Chair on 01643 707623