

## **The Tour of Britain is Coming to Rochdale!**

The UK's biggest and best bike race is on its way to Rochdale!

This year the 8-day Tour of Britain, the UK equivalent of the Tour de France, is starting in Rochdale.

Lining up outside the spectacular Rochdale Town Hall for the 10.30am start on Saturday 11 September, will be 100 of the world's best professional cyclists.

Cycling superstars who are making their way to Rochdale for the 2010 race include Olympians Bradley Wiggins and Geraint Thomas, who are part of the UK's Team Sky which is making its much anticipated Tour debut.

Some of the cycling superstars know what Rochdale has in store as they've cycled its roads before. Ed Clancy and fan favourite Russ Downing have taken part in the Rochdale Grand Prix, and multiple Olympic medallist Chris Newton, a 3x winner of the Rochdale Grand Prix, will be looking to make history by starting his seventh Tour of Britain. Daniel Shand, from Littleborough, will also ride for Team Raleigh.

Before the race begins cycling fans who head to the town centre will have the chance to chat with the sporting stars before they make their way to the start gantry. Plus there's a Tour Festival starting at 8am with a mountain bike obstacle course, dancing bikes, a climbing wall, a vintage bike display, a bouncy castle, dance mats, face painting and much, much more. All for free!

The 1,229 km race takes the cyclists from Rochdale town centre, along St Mary's Gate and up Spotland Road. The race proper gets underway at the Ings Lane junction with Edenfield Road, where an early breakaway could begin.

They will speed along to Norden for the first sprint of the 2010 cycling spectacular, which will take place in the village, and then they'll face the first big climb of the challenge as they head towards Scout Moor Wind Farm and out of the borough towards Edenfield.

The race is the premier event in the UK cycling calendar. Highlights will be shown on ITV4 every night as the cyclists make their way to London for the finish – but don't miss out on the start! Head to Rochdale town centre to experience the excitement for yourself!

To find out more visit [www.rochdale.gov.uk/tourofbritain](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/tourofbritain) or [www.tourofbritain.co.uk](http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk)