



Kevin Bond, our new Trust Chair, writes a message to our supporters and members:

"As a long term resident of Stratford upon Avon and the upcoming Chair of the Stratford Society, I firmly believe that our churches are at the very centre of our local history and the physical record of the development of Warwickshire over the past one thousand years or more. Whether in a village, town or city parish, the church holds the evidence of human development and culture which has made us what we are. How can we allow modern and short-term needs to take away this living heritage without ensuring that we preserve for future generations that we have enjoyed ourselves? This important question has led me to become involved in Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust.

"I was born in Rugby, Warwickshire and went through all my schooling in the County (when Birmingham was also a part of the historic county!) and began my working life after university. I was a policeman in Birmingham and moved to Stratford as Superintendent of Police in 1986. In 1990 I left the police and moved into the world of the environment and its protection; initially as Director of Operations and then later as Chief Executive of The National Rivers Authority (the predecessor body to The Environment Agency). Following this, I did a stint as Chief Executive of the parent company to Yorkshire Water. During this time I have spent many years dealing with the management and maintenance of distributed physical infrastructure. If we apply these lessons to our churches we can massively cut the costs of keeping them available for us all.

"The Trust aims to win the support of local church communities, incumbents and representative church bodies, accepting that there are different and creative ways to manage their physical assets for the benefit of current and future parishioners. Keeping buildings open, available and in sound repair is a challenge for us all. With achievable plans and good communication I believe that it is possible to build a maintenance regime which will attract sufficient funding to safeguard our physical heritage now and into the future.

"This will not be a quick win but will take many years to work through. Now is the beginning of a new period of development and activity and I am looking forward so much to facing this challenge with you all!"

Ride and Stride 2009

Joan Hughes, Treasurer to the Trust, has reported encouraging results so far and Helen McGowan of Divine Inspiration, who support the Trust in promoting the Ride and Stride event, and who is a new Trustee of CWHCT, contributes the following:

"A perfect sunny day in September combined with increases in both participating churches and enthusiastic riders resulted in a larger amount of money being raised for the Trust and churches across our county. This seems to be a trend following on from last year's success and the Trustees are really cheered by this. **£14,376 was raised in just one day and nearly a third more riders took part!** It means that the Trust have already been able to return nearly £6,000 to the parishes as a contribution to their maintenance and repair bills. Of course, this also means that we have a similar amount to distribute to other churches across our county in grants - you will see in this edition of the newsletter that we have made many small, but much needed grants, to many Places of Worship over recent months.

"We really value the efforts made by so many that allowed this important fundraising event to take place - those of you who committed to being open and welcoming on the day of the Ride and Stride, and most particularly to those who take part. In 2009 Bishop Christopher, himself a keen cyclist himself, rode around the Dassett Hills route taking in 11 churches over 30 miles and meeting up with parishioners and other cyclists en route. He is pictured here with other participants outside All Saints in the Dassett Hills. He has already committed to taking



Bishop Christopher greeting riders at All Saints, Burton Dassett

part next year in another part of the Diocese.

"This years champion rider, yet again, was the invincible Paddy Taylor, riding for St. Margaret's Hunningham, who rode for 50 miles and amassed £600 from 65 sponsors overtaking his 2008 achievements by miles. Barry Walker from Walsgrave was a close second, visiting 20 churches and collecting money from 70 sponsors.

"Thanks are due especially to Will Hawkes, who collates all the information, sends out the packs for riders and striders and acts as a contact for enquiries. James Kerr, also a new Trustee, worked tirelessly to promote the event on the radio, the new WCHCT website and in the pages of Warwickshire Life. We look forward to next year's Ride and Stride which we feel sure will be bigger and better!"

This year's Ride and Stride will take place on 11th September 2010

Recent Recipients of Grants

The following Places of Worship in Coventry and Warwickshire were awarded small grants in 2009. The awards were awarded for varied work including:

St. Michael, Bishops Itchington	£1,000 tower repairs
St Peter, Welford on Avon	£150 ceiling replacement
St. David, Newbold on Stour	£100 floor repair
St. Mary, Leamington Priors	£400 dry rot
Holy Trinity, Churchover	£200 masonry
St. Mary the Virgin, Astley	£500 wall paintings
St Andrew, Rugby	£500 nave roof
Church of the Most Holy Sacrament and St Osburg, Coventry	£500 for fabric repairs

Here is an extract from the Barcheston with Withington Village News, who reported this unusual way of participating in the Ride and Stride in 2009! If

anyone can do it John can! Not everyone can be a cyclist and sitting a 'stride' to ride a tractor on the Stride and Ride route was John Peebles way of raising



money for Barcheston Church and the Historic Churches Trust. John attached a trailer to his tractor and a host of Peebles, Llewelyns, Weavers, Russons, Windebecks and Williams joined in the fun. They called at 10 churches, raised plenty of eyebrows and £270. What a terrific idea this was and marvellous that doing something that is such fun can also raise a good sum of money. Well done to everyone involved!

Tell us about your ride...

The Ride and Stride sub-group would be very glad to hear of your experiences if you took part, or have taken part in previous years. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to organise the event effectively to make it an easy and enjoyable day to take part in. You can contact Will Hawkes on hawkes01@btinternet.com

The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust

Registered charity No. 508352

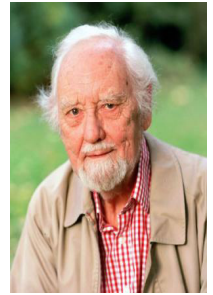
Chair: Dr Kevin Bond

Secretary: Joan Hughes 01608 682420

Bike Ride Co-ordinator: Will Hawkes hawkes01@btinternet.com, 01789 266415

Go to www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk for further information about the Trust

Dr Charles Brown, a Trustee of the CWHCT, writes a tribute to Norman Painting, one time Chair of the Trust, who died at the end of 2009.



Norman Painting
1924 - 2009

“Shortly after the four founder trustees established the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Trust in 1978, Norman Painting himself became a Trustee and in due course Chairman. To that position he brought great energy and an exemplary devotion to supporting the many beautiful and historic churches of the area. His academic training strengthened his knowledge of all aspects of these historic buildings, which formerly perhaps had been concentrated on the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick, where he was Chairman of the Friends.

“Over many years he supported the various activities of the Trust, even insisting his home be used as arranged for a Christmas Carol Concert and Supper, although he had to lie in his bed upstairs having succumbed to influenza. On another occasion he exercised his skill in music by playing the piano at a Country House supper party. He brought to Trustees' Meetings a deep appreciation and understanding of the place of the Parish Church in the fabric of a village - both architecturally and in the life of the community. He had a real “feeling” for Warwickshire, and of what was important, and we always listened with admiration and respect to what he had to say.

“His link with the BBC furthered a successful broadcast appeal for Funds for the Trust, carried out with great success by fellow Trustee, Dame Judi Dench.

“In later years failing health meant active support became less but his interest in the Trust never lessened and woe befell the Secretary who omitted to send him the latest Minutes of Trustees' meetings!

“His support was invaluable in the formative years of The Trust and for that the present Trustees are, and will continue to be, profoundly grateful.”

Introducing James Kerr



“My involvement with CWHCT is fairly recent having only been elected a Trustee last year. My interest in churches and their preservation began when as church warden at St Mary's in Pillerton Hersey I was required to organize and fund raise for urgent repairs to the stone work of the tower.

The difficulties encountered, and the subsequent success of this venture, opened my eyes to the enormous task that we have in keeping these wonderful historic buildings open and in good repair as well as being able to pass them on to the next generation.

“With my skills as a professional architectural photographer I have been able to provide some creative and communicational input into the Trusts activities. These include launching and designing the website, providing it with images and acting in a PR spokesman, particularly for Ride and Stride. I very much look forward to being able to help and build on the successes of last year under the guidance of our new Chairman.”