



RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Thank you to everyone! The Big Send Off.....



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Ride and Stride event. It was a fabulous day and even the sun took part for the whole day!

We are very pleased to announce that at the end of November we had raised in the region of £ 11,000 in sponsorship which is an increase on last year.

2014 Ride and Stride Awards

(For sponsorship received before 31st October)

The Church Award

This year this award goes to St Nicholas Church in Warwick. They had a really good year with their riders Paul Williams, Robert Perkins and Fiona Trewick raising £ 1193.50 which is a fabulous achievement.

The Individual Award

We had nearly twice as many Riders and Striders this year with some visiting over 30 churches on the day which is amazing. This year the award for the individual who raised the most sponsorship goes to Frank Collins who rode for St James the Great in Idlicote. Well done Frank!

This year we thought it would be a good idea to hold a launch event on the Ride and Stride day at one of our participating churches.

St Nicholas Church in Warwick did an amazing job in hosting our first event and we had a fantastic turnout. We were lucky enough to have Paralympian skier Anna Turney officially open the Ride and Stride event with Bishop Christopher taking part as well as the High Sheriff of Warwick Clare Hopkinson. Local MP Chris White also joined us to add his support.



Clare Hopkinson, Bishop Christopher, Chris White and Anna Turney.

Would you like to host our next 'Big Send Off' event?

We are looking for another venue to host next year's 'Big Send Off' event. If you think your church would be interested or if you would like more information on what is involved then please contact Claire Ragg at Claire@everythingbutthetea.com



WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

My 2014 ride by Frank Collins

Rider for St James Church, Idlicote

This was the first time I have participated in the Ride and Stride and found it a really enjoyable event. My route around South Warwickshire and parts of Gloucestershire saw me visit about 16 churches and at each one there was a warm welcome – either in the form of a friendly face offering refreshments and support, or simply through the presence of a flask, some nibbles and a note saying “thank you”.

I am not a particularly enthusiastic cyclist but was encouraged by passing conversations with fellow Ride and Striders whom I would meet at our scheduled stops, and by the promise of a warm welcome on my final stop – St



James the Great in my village of Idlicote. I was not disappointed; as I approached the church I spotted the “welcome and congratulations banner” and was energised to sprint the final few metres when I heard the sound of a champagne cork popping!

The weather was extremely kind to all participants, be they on foot or saddle, and the cause is a worthy one. Our old churches remain such important elements of our village and county communities that we should do what we can to preserve them for the future. In a small way, Ride and Stride plays its part and the organisers and dozens of volunteers should be congratulated on their efforts.

So, I had a great time despite suffering a slow puncture which did its best to not only deflate my inner-tube but also my determination. However, it was destined to be defeated as I steadfastly stopped at regular intervals to pump up the tyre and remain focussed on the sponsorship money at stake...and that glass of champagne!

New walk for Warwick launched

To mark the 1100th anniversary celebrations in Warwick WCHCT has launched a new walking and cycling route around the churches and chapels of Warwick.

Three of our trustees, Caroline Larkin, Lesley Read and Canon Edward Stewart launched the walk from St Nicholas church strolling up to St Mary’s where the



Mayor of Warwick joined them for the rest of the route. It was a great opportunity to see the diversity of places of worship in the town including the chapel of Lord Leycester Hospital, the Unitarian chapel and Saltisford Church amongst others.

All the walkers agreed it was wonderful to see how these religious buildings continue to evolve and are in use on a day to day basis, providing an extraordinary range of



activities for the community in Warwick, a magnificent example of how the grant giving work of the Trust can contribute to the development of communities throughout Warwickshire.

This walk is now available to download on the WCHCT website



WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Helen Castor Event

On 6th of July Helen Castor, well known for her history programmes on the BBC came and talked to an enthused audience of over eighty people at St Mary, Astley. Her specialist subject was 'Queens and Power in Medieval England: The case for Lady Jane Grey'. It was particularly appropriate as nearby Astley Castle was the family home of Grey family and the church would have been familiar to her.



Claire Ragg, Helen Castor & James



St Mary's, an unknown jewel of Warwickshire's churches, deserves better recognition. The WCHCT is not so well supported in the north of the county and the event hoped

to advertise our presence there and to stimulate support. The event raised over £1000 for the charity.

Grants for 2014

Applications totalling £ 12,000 have been approved to the following churches during 2014:

St.Edmunds, Thurlaston	£ 2000
St Mary the Virgin, Pillerton Hersey	£ 1500
St.John the Baptist, Wasperton	£ 500
St.Marys, Oldberrow	£ 1500
St.Peters, Dunchurch	£ 4000
St.Marys, Clifton on Dunsmore	£ 2500

2015 Photographic Competition

Would you like to win your church £ 100 towards repairs to the fabric of the building?

Why not enter our competition? We are looking for you to send in a photo of your church for one or more of the following categories:

- 1) Your church in winter
- 2) Tranquillity
- 3) A place of worship and more

The closing date for these to be submitted is Tuesday 31st March 2015 and the winners will be announced at our AGM on the 20th May 2015.

Send your entries to Claire Ragg at Claire@everythingbutthetea.com

Are you a member?

Both individual and church membership numbers have been static for a number of years. In 2015 the trust aims to increase numbers significantly, especially church memberships which only cost £ 50.00 per annum. Whilst recognising that church budgets are difficult to balance the trustees hope that this additional support will mean more grants can be made to churches in the county in need of renovation. We attach a membership form at the end of this newsletter for any of you who wish to join (individual £ 25 pa).

WCHCT 2015 AGM

20th May 2015

Would your church like to host our next AGM meeting?

We are looking for a venue in the North of the County.

If you can help please contact Claire Ragg on 07880 568946 or email Claire@everythingbutthetea.com



WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

A word from the chair.....

Well, once again we are in the run up to the joy of Christmas and New Year. I hope you all look back on a wonderful year and are full of energy facing this trying time! Here at The Coventry and Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust we have been blessed through the financial support given which has allowed us to continue to grow our financial support for churches in our area. However, no sooner do we help one church than another needs help and so the need for fundraising continues. Fortunately the annual Ride and Stride bike, foot and other forms of transport (!) continues to prosper and we are able to continue to help. We had a significant legacy last year which also helped greatly.

We are looking at new ways of helping churches which contain so much of our local history. We are thinking about whether we need to change our constitution to bring it more into the 21st century and talking to The National Churches Trust about whether we can work closely with our neighbouring area of Birmingham. The coming months will make such matters clearer.

Please continue to help us support our wonderful built heritage and do let us have any ideas you might have for our continued activities.

A very happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Kevin Bond - Chairman

Legacies and Donations

Both legacies and donations are gratefully received by cheque, bank transfer or via JustGiving. A GiftAid declaration can be found on the membership form which has been issued alongside this newsletter. If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Claire Ragg

Dates for your diary

Grants meeting – Tuesday 13th January 2015

(Deadline for applications 31st December 2014)

AGM – Wednesday 20th May 2015

(Venue to be confirmed)

Closing date for photo entries – 31st March 2015

Ride & Stride - Saturday 12th September 2015

The WCHCT Contact Details

Chair: Dr Kevin Bond **Deputy Chair:** James Kerr

Treasurer: Lesley Read FCA

Secretary: Jane Webster:

Email: ejane@lilley2.plus.com

Tel: 01788 810211

Ride & Stride Coordinator /Trust Administrator:

Claire Ragg: Email: Claire@everythingbutthetea.com

Tel: 07880 568946

Visit www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk for more information

Registered Charity number 508352

***The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic
Churches Trust wish all of you a very Happy***

Christmas

