

SUSSEX HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Crouchers
Birdham Road
Apuldram
Chichester
PO20 7EQ

January 2015

Dear Organiser,

SHCT 2014 Ride & Stride

I am very pleased to say that about 350 adults and 45 under 16's from 137 churches took part from across Sussex and I want to thank you all for your efforts that achieved these very good results. We were slightly concerned that the Tour of Britain event, which passed through East Sussex on the day of the Ride and Stride, would put off some families, but the amount raised of almost £55,000 including Gift Aid, is in line with the previous year. While there were fewer churches taking part, the good news is that the average amount raised per church was 10% higher at £335, giving the total of almost £55,000 as mentioned above.

I would like to thank three Area Organisers who have now retired, for all their help and support. Steve Blighton-Sande from Chichester, George Redgrave from Crawley and Revd Gail Souppouris from Shoreham. Steve was also the Webmaster, a role now taken over by Mike Coleman of MCsystems, who is also redesigning the Trust website, but of course we need to find volunteers to take over the Crawley and Shoreham areas. The Hastings area continues to present us with the problem of finding an organiser so Richard Orchard has decided to look after it for the moment.

There are a couple of points on which I seek your help. Analysis of the results shows that whilst there are over 400 churches included on the Places Open list, only about 30% raise funds for the Trust, and it must be our objective to increase this number in 2015. The Treasurer has also said that he is still receiving some sponsor returns without paperwork; this is disappointing because it means that he is unable to return half the money raised to the relevant churches.

Under the new HMRC rules for claiming Gift Aid, it is important that all riders and walkers include their name and address on their sponsor forms as it is only their name that has to be submitted, but all those sponsoring the riders and walkers still need to include their full details to enable us to claim the Gift Aid.

On publicity, the trifold colour leaflets advertising the Trust are being distributed to all churches at the time of the Archdeacons visitations. This year we will be sending emails to all the churches before the event to remind them of the Ride and Stride and ask them to mention it to their congregations. In some of the counties the Estate Agents are prepared to add a sticker on their "For Sale" boards a few weeks beforehand, advertising the Ride and Stride and certainly some Estate Agents in the Chichester area have agreed to do this. I think this is an excellent way of attracting publicity and I would encourage you to ask your local Estate Agents if they would also do it.

Details of all the grants given to churches will be included on the new Trust website, so that those taking part can see the results of their efforts. In addition, John Songhurst is looking at how we can include links to the popular sites such as Facebook and Twitter which are being used more and more. In February and March we will, of course, again be asking churches to register online as this saves both time and effort and we hope that more participants will seek donations using the Justgiving website.

The winner of the under 16's cyclist trophy for the second year running was Luke Ulliyott from St Bartholomew's, Rogate with 121 stars and the runner up was Bradley Batchelor from St Leonard, Denton with 69 stars. The walker's trophy was won jointly by Brooke and Kyleton Harman from St Peter the Hydneye, Eastbourne with 35 stars, with Mary Goodlad from Holy Cross, Bignor the runner up with 28 stars.

Nikki and Andrew Lilley from St Nicholas, Old Shoreham jointly won the individual cyclists trophy with 147 stars and the runner up was Lee Stace from St Michael, Amberley with 121 stars. John Pretty from St Mary the Virgin, Buxted won the individual walkers trophy with 46 stars, and the runner up, just behind with 43 stars, was Katherine Musson from St Mary the Virgin, Eastbourne.

The "Woolbeding Wheelers" from All Hallows, Woolbeding won the cyclists team trophy with 86 stars with "Easebourne Easyriders" from St Mary's, Easebourne the runners up with an average of 60 stars. The "Westchilt Walkers" from St Mary's, West Chiltington won the team walkers trophy with 43 stars closely followed by "Jimmy's Team" from St James, Birdham with 39 stars.

Brenda Hunnisett, from St Margaret the Queen, Buxted raised an amazing £1163, but this was eclipsed by Pamela Lade who raised the magnificent sum of £1404 and thus receives the Special award once again.

The award ceremony will be held at St Nicholas Church, Pevensey, BN24 5LD, on Saturday 7 March 2015, at the slightly later time of 3 pm, when the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field, will present the trophies and certificates to the winners and all under 16's. There is a free car park adjacent to the Church. All organisers are very welcome to attend the award ceremony, but please let me know if you are coming for catering purposes.

A sincere thank you to all of you who have helped throughout the year and of course to all those who took part, and we look forward to an even more successful Ride & Stride on Saturday 12 September this year.

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Distribution: Chairman and Archdeacons
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