

Ride & Stride Organiser

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Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

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Sponsored ride and STRIDE report November 2008

As soon as we start getting the nippy weather and the temperatures make a hint of the looming festive season we are able to tell how our fund-raising efforts for the past year have gone as we count the money we have received from those involved with the Ride and Stride.

The amount of sponsorship that pours into the office in large envelopes accompanied with many sponsorship forms brings a lot of excitement out of us. This is the moment when we realise that all our efforts are coming together.

The 2008 event has been well-supported as in previous years and the money received from participants has been overwhelming and we have made several trips to the bank with the paying-in book to cash all the cheques and notes that we have received.

Every year we set ourselves a target to beat the total amount collected during the year before that and 2008 is no different and we will be very satisfied if at the end of March 2009 we are able to say that we have actually managed to do that.

As reported in September earlier this year everything was in place for a successful 2008 event with the weather proving ideal cycling and walking conditions for those who took part and up-to-date a total amount of £15,070.92 has been received from Churches and Chapels (242 buildings were on the List of Participating Churches in 2008). This amount does not include Gift Aid which will bring an extra £2,000. For the whole of 2007 we received £18,015.09 exclusive of Gift Aid.

The overall amount for 2008 is likely to increase due to the fact that around 20% of churches and chapels are yet to return their paperwork and any money raised. The final figure for 2008 will be based on all sponsorship received up until March 31, 2008.

Work is well underway to return 50% of the sponsorship raised by each place of worship and that involves a great deal of administration work. The sponsorship we have received so far which is really worthy of a mention includes the ever present St Andrew's Church, Caunton, with £581.50, Rainworth Methodist with £550.00, St Giles' Church, Balderton, with £590.00, St Georges in the Meadows Church, Nottingham, with £438.20, All Saints Church, Cotgrave, who raised £600.00 to record another amazing return of sponsorship as they go from strength to strength year after year. The biggest cheer though should go to St Cyprian's Church, Sneinton who have done an outstanding job and have managed to fetch a total of £951.50, which puts them in the lead for the 2008 event.

A lot of other churches have raised amounts ranging from £10 to £400 and their contribution is very valuable.

We have received a number of entries for the Best Story competition, more than any other year, and experienced journalist Tony Turner who works in the office at Keyworth will soon spend time to judge them.

We are also in the process of entering all the names of people who have signed the necessary forms to confirm they pay tax to allow us to produce a Gift Aid Claim (the lists in 2006 and 2007 consisted of 1200 names each) and this will be submitted in 2009.

Despite the fact that we are working on the 2008 event it will not be long before 2009 knocks on the door and preparations will be underway to get us in good shape for the event when entry forms and invitation letters will go out to around 550 churches and chapels in the county of Nottinghamshire. We are already thinking of what we should do to make the 2009 event different to the one in 2008 and there are ideas available from other county organisers.

Mike Elliott

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE****SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2009**

Nottinghamshire

START: 10am FINISH: 6pm

Registered Charity No. 518335

Patrons:

Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt., Lord Lieutenant of

The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Southwell

The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Nottingham

HH Judge Tony Mitchell