

Sponsored Ride and Stride 2008 and 2009

The first few months of 2009 is that time of the year when 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.

With great delight we are in a position to report that the 2008 Ride and Stride exceeded marginally the amount raised in 2007. Every year we set ourselves a target to beat the total amount collected during the year before that and to be in the position to say we have achieved that is very satisfactory.

The 2008 event could be labelled as one of our most successful events since being at the helm, although the weeks and days prior to the day did not look too promising. Pouring rain threatened to spoil our efforts but on the actual day it was all fine with bright sunshine throughout most of the day. The total amount of £18,030.57 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 (in 2007 the Gift Aid fetched an extra £2,158).

Work has taken place to return 50% of the sponsorship raised by each place of worship and that involves a great deal of administration work. The sponsorship we received for 2008 which is really worthy of a mention includes the ever-present St Andrew's Church, Caunton, with £585 raised on their behalf by 40 riders and walkers, St Mary's Church, Edwinstowe, with £500, St Giles, Balderton, who have achieved the amazing £631 collected by only seven riders and walkers, Rainworth Methodist with £550, All Saints, Cotgrave, with £600, St Michaels, Linby, raised £610. The most impressive contribution came from St Cyprian, Sneinton, who collected the staggering £951 with the help of 33 riders and strider. A lot of other churches have raised amounts ranging from £10 to £400 and their contribution is very valuable.

In 2008 we received a number of entries for the Best Story competition and experienced journalist Tony Turner, who works in the office at Keyworth, spent time to judge them. A cheque for £100 was presented to Holy Trinity Church, Everton, for the story written by Tony Swallow who won the competition. Second place went to Adriana Fallon from St Peter's Church, Widmerpool, with third place going to Barbara Selwood of St John the Baptist Church, Beeston.

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 list in 2007 consisted of 1,100 names) and this will be submitted some time in 2009.

Despite the fact that there is still work to be done on the 2008 event we are in the progress of making arrangements for 2009 and preparations are well underway and 550 churches and chapels in the county of Nottinghamshire are being persuaded to sign to take part on September 12.

There will be the usual three competitions again – a cycle will be awarded to the most active church or chapel who fields the strongest team of riders and walkers, a £50 cheque will be presented to the participant who visits the most places of worship which are normally less visited and are shortlisted by us as organisers, and finally a cheque for £100 will be given to the person who writes the most exciting story about the event.

Once again a reminder - make a note in your diaries - Saturday September 12, 2009, between 10am and 6pm - this is the date when the Ride and Stride will take place and we are hoping to see a great turnout as usual. Information on the event is always available from us and we are more than happy to help anyone who is willing to take part and raise funds for crumbling buildings in Nottinghamshire.

And as we normally say every year - looking forward to seeing you in your saddles and in your walking shoes'. Do not forget it is a healthy way to spend a day!

Mike Elliott
Ride and Stride Organiser