

Bike Ride News

The spring looks as if it has finally arrived and everyone is out and about walking or riding their bicycles in the countryside making the most of the sunshine. The lambs are bouncing around in the fields and we have started our advertising and paperwork distribution lists for the Bike Ride 2017. However, we have not forgotten that we owe you an update on the final figures for the Bike Ride 2016!

The Bike Ride was supported by 565 participants last year making 2,198 visits to churches and chapels, raising a whopping £100,261! Over 200 new participants joined the ranks which is great news for the future. This was despite the terrible weather. There was an increase in those of you who chose to walk or drive but the majority of participants took to their bikes. Thank you everyone who did brave the rain and cold winds of the day. The top church, All Saints, Burnham Thorpe, raised £4,083 and knocked Hempstead, All Saints into second place.

Some amazing individual stories were also reported from the day; as well as the 2 boys canoeing down the River Bure featured in our first Newsletter, one of the participants was sponsored by every individual in their village, filling 17 sponsorship sheets. The most churches visited by bicycle was 64 and on foot 50, as well as one person in his 80s, walking around 35 Churches in Norwich.

There was an upward trend in the use of JustGiving as a way of fundraising and donating money to the Trust. Any feedback from those of you who did use this method would be gratefully received. Quite a few chose to create their own fundraising page on the JustGiving website to send out to family and friends around the world to ask for their support. It has the secondary benefit of advertising the Norfolk Churches Trust to a wider audience.

In this newsletter, we wanted to highlight lead theft. The last couple of years have seen a surge in rural churches seeking financial support in the aftermath of roof lead thefts. This can be devastating for PCCs who are struggling to meet their parish share and maintain their historic buildings and who do not know how to tackle the resulting problems. The potential damage to the structure of the church and the irreplaceable contents within after lead thefts is huge. Your money is helping the Norfolk Churches Trust to actively work in conjunction with other interested parties to provide advice and funding for churches with lead roofs, to fit and maintain alarms to fight the continuing scourge of lead thefts. We will also give grants towards reroofing.

Your continued support and enthusiasm for the Trust, its work and its events is essential and enables us to help our historic places of worship. It is so appreciated by us all and by the churches throughout the County that receive grants.

Our next big fundraiser is the Stately Car Boot Sale at Sennowe Park on Sunday 30th April, 10am to 3.30pm. It will be a great day out! We hope to see you there.

With best wishes to you all,

The NCT Bike Ride Team