

Bike Ride Newsletter – January 2019

Dear All

As the dust settles after the seasonal break we turn our eyes to the New Year and all those resolutions to fulfil and good intentions to maintain. We on the Bike Ride Team continue to be astounded at the generosity and support from all of you. Thank you!

The Norfolk Churches Walk and Bike Ride fulfils so many of our good intentions for 2019... From keeping fit and active to getting involved in our local communities and to supporting a good local cause.

At the start of the year the amount raised to date from the 2018 Bike Ride was almost £89,000. If you haven't yet got your donations in to us please do send them in and let's try and tip that figure over the £90k mark.

The need for work on our Norfolk churches is still as great as ever. As you know, we are so lucky in Norfolk with so many outstanding historical buildings but this does mean that there is always plenty of demand for any funds raised. The natural wear and tear on these buildings combined with the additional threat of lead thefts which is sadly on the rise means that we urgently require help to raise more money to support local communities in taking care of their buildings.

Thank you for all the valuable and fascinating blogs, photographs and information you send us cataloguing your walks, rides and drives. This year the most number of churches visited (so far...) was 55 – slightly down on last year's record 87 – but nonetheless impressive as they were visited on foot and by bike!

Six of our participants have pipped the £1,000 mark and one of our regular cyclists has raised close to £2,000 – huge congratulations! Thanks go, however, to all of you who participate and whose donations swell the coffers and go to make up the total. It is such a great day and we are delighted that you have enjoyed the day itself, visiting our churches and raising awareness of the Norfolk Churches Trust and its work.

St. George, Colegate continues to hold the prize for the record number of visitors (but only by 1!) This year it welcomed 61 visitors, slightly ahead of St. Peter, Mancroft who opened their doors to 60.

2018 saw a wide range of ages with some participants having taken part for over 20 years, one describing herself as being in her "upper eighties" whilst at the same time we saw two 8 year olds and one 10 year old raising £165 between them – congratulations to you all! It goes to show that the Bike Ride and Walk is such an inclusive event enjoyed by all ages.

This year we have also seen one of our impressive multi-tasking volunteers managed to dispense drinks, clean the church and also raise £60 in donations!

Please keep your photographs coming in as the photography competition is yet to be judged – they don't have to be particularly artistic or scenic shots – the funny family shots from all ages are equally welcome as they capture what's great about the day, so thank you for sharing them with us.

Once again we are staggered and humbled by your continued support. Without you we would never be able to achieve these outstanding figures which in turn would mean we would not be able to offer the support for the upkeep of our beautiful churches.

As we look forward to this year's Bike Ride and Walk on 14th September 2019 we are happy to incorporate any new suggestions to what is such a wonderfully successful and happy day so if you do have any thoughts as to how we can improve the day please do let us know.

Thank you again for all your support and we wish you all a healthy and happy 2019.

With very best wishes and heartfelt thanks,

The Bike Ride Team.