Churches Trusts Forum

supporting churches trusts to help places of worship

Issue 3, August 2015

Exciting times ahead

Our first two Newsletters have shown the breadth of work undertaken by Trusts around the country. It has been very heartening to read about the many initiatives to raise funds and to support places of worship and to feel the vibrancy of our sector.

Our Annual Conference in Winchester on April 30th was a real delight. I'm very grateful to our colleagues from the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust for their splendid assistance in organising it and on the day itself. hear from our brilliant guest speakers on a range of important topics. The day culminated with a wonderful service of Evensong conducted by the Very Reverend Dean James Atwell in Winchester Cathedral.

Looking ahead, there are several things on the horizon which are likely to hold our attention. The second round of Roof Repair grants is due to commence in the autumn when places of worship will put in applications for funds from the allocation of £25millions. I am sure that this will give us the opportunity to help applicants with advice and possibly some funding.

continues on page 2...

In this issue

News from & for the Trusts Page 5
The National Churches Trust Page 9
Ride+Stride news Page 12
List of CTF members Page 13

About the Churches Trusts Forum

The Churches Trusts Forum (CTF) represents churches trusts and provides a point of liaison with the National Churches Trust and other national bodies.

It provides a panel of regional representatives who volunteer to help raise issues at national level. The group also develops guidance on issues where needed and requested.

Call for your input
Please tell your CTF representative what guidance would be useful for your trust, from help with publicity to current recommended guidance on best practice for trustees of small charities.

The Churches Trusts Forum is supported by the National Churches Trust

...continued from page 1

We will also need to watch the Government's next spending review very closely.

We have no idea yet as to what will happen to the LPOW VAT reimbursement grant after April 2016, either in terms of the total quantum available or of the items which will be eligible. Allied to this will be the impact of Roof Repair grants upon this scheme and how that will be handled. At some point during the next year, all of us will need to have some discussion with our accountants and auditors about the introduction of the new Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) for Accounting and Annual Reporting for periods commencing after 1st January, 2016. This could change the way in which some of us report our finances each year. In terms of our internal organisation and governance, some of us will be considering the pros and cons of changing our trust deeds and re-forming as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), about which more information is given later in the Newsletter (page 7). These issues, along with Ride+Stride and other fundraising, will no doubt keep all of us on our toes!

I mentioned in our last Newsletter that the Forum had reached its full complement of volunteers to support all areas of the country. Please bear in mind that these colleagues are here to help you - if you have any questions at all about grant making, recruitment and appointment of trustees, organisation, governance, fundraising or anything else, or even wonder if there are template documents available about things like contracts of employment, trustee declarations etc., please contact your regional representative who has access to advice from NCT and other colleagues.

May I wish you good luck with the issues which come before you during the next year.

John Mills,
Chairman, Churches Trust Forum

Churches Trusts Forum Statement of Purpose

The Churches Trusts Forum is a group of regional representatives for local churches trusts. The group was originally formed in 2005 to improve communication and the transmission of information between local and national levels and vice versa. Members represent and support their own and neighbouring churches trusts through opening and improving communication, encouraging good governance and giving access to information. The forum includes representatives from the National Churches Trust which provides administrative support and facilitates the forum's meetings and activities. The aim of the forum is to encourage and help churches trusts in their work to serve the needs of places of worship. The views and needs of local churches trusts and of the National Churches Trust are explored to determine the group's activities.

What the Forum does

Members aim to maintain regular contact with the churches trusts that they represent and encourage them in their work to help places of worship. The forum brings the views of different local churches trusts together with those of the National Churches Trust. The forum develops information to assist local churches trusts where a need is identified. It promotes the importance of local churches trusts and identifies potential ways to sustain and increase the effectiveness and impact of their work as a support mechanism for places of worship. The forum creates a link with the National Ride+Stride Committee which is represented in at least one meeting per year.

The Forum's management

The forum is independent and does not fall under the overall governance of any official body. The forum and its activities are made possible through administrative support and facilitation by the National Churches Trust.

Churches Trusts Forum Annual Conference 2015

The best year yet?

A warm welcome from Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust

Above: Luke March, National Churches Trust and Lady Eric Harman, Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust at Winchester

Before the conference commenced attendees were given an opportunity to enjoy a tour of beautiful Winchester Cathedral.

We were welcomed to Hampshire by Dame Mary Fagan, President and Lady Joan Appleyard, Chairman, Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches. John Mills, Chairman of the CTF and Luke March, Chairman, National Churches Trust thanked them for their hospitality and warm welcome.

The programme for the day, sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance, covered a range of topics on church architecture, fundraising and small charity management. The morning session included a fascinating and enlightening overview of developments in Catholic architecture by Sophie Andreae, Vice Chairman of the Patrimony Committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Eleanor Gill, Legacy and Funding Officer, National Stewardship Team, Church of England dispelled some myths and gave us inspiring advice on legacy campaigns in her entertaining talk Are you dying to leave a Legacy?'

Continues on page 4...

...continued from page 3

We were honoured that The Very Revd Dean James Atwell, Dean of Winchester Cathedral (pictured on the previous page) welcomed everyone back after lunch and, with Claire Walker of the National Churches Trust, announced The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects, which you can read about on page 10.

This was followed by a lively panel discussion 'Grant Making and the Public – a discussion celebrating and looking at grant giving by trusts', with questions from delegates (pictured above) on a range of issues from funding alterations to attracting new trustees. The Importance of Ride+Stride to many trusts was also highlighted.

Lastly, Amanda Francis, Buzzacotts Chartered Accountants, revealed how to make more of Annual Reports in her very topical presentation 'The trustees' report – making a virtue out of a necessity – keeping on the right side of charity law.'

A special Evensong in the Cathedral concluded the day's events. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the conference, with special thanks to the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches for the venue and hospitality and to Ecclesiastical Insurance for sponsoring the event.

(left to right) Meryl Balchin, Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust, Peter Durrant MBE, CTF Member and Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust, Celia Stephens, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Save The Date

Thursday, 19 May 2016

The Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust invites us to York f
or the Annual Conference 2016

Merchant Taylors Hall, York
www.cateringvenueyork.co.uk/

Details will be confirmed and released in the new year
We hope to see you there

www.yhct.org.uk
Reg Charity No. 700639

News from & for the Trusts

Leicestershire HCT into church tours and garden openings

After 50 years of helping to save the County's Christian places of worship, Leicestershire HCT has followed the initiatives of other County Trusts by arranging its first Churches' Tour and Garden Openings.

High Sheriff's support

By fortunate coincidence Chair, Janet Arthur's husband, Gordon Arthur, is the current High Sheriff of Leicestershire and readily gave his support to promoting the Spring Bank Holiday Monday Tour of three churches in East Leicestershire and two just into Rutland.

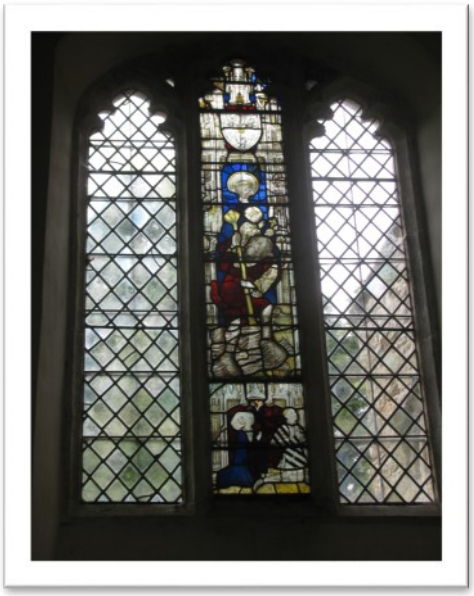
Retired History Master at Loughborough Grammar School, Roger Willson, highly regarded in the County for his expertise in interpreting church buildings, led the party through centuries of ecclesiastical and liturgical developments, stories depicted in stained glass and heraldic devices.

His revelations of the fascinating features of 13th-15th century St Peter Stockerston (pictured right, the surviving medieval glass), 16th century Brooke St Peter, 17th century St Andrew Lyddington, 18th century St John the Baptist Kings Norton, and 19th century St Andrew Tur Langton (by Leicester Architect Joseph Goddard) were interspersed with, sometimes humorous, tales of church characters and life.

Trustee David Knowles DL organised the tour with administrative support by Vicki Dolphin, the Trust's new Grants Secretary.

Garden Openings

The Trust's first Garden Openings were achieved through the generosity and very willing co-operation of expert gardeners and owners Sue and Tim Milward and Beryl and David Wyrko in the delightful village of Gaddesby. Both fine gardens are well known for the public open days raising money for charities.



Bi-centenary attraction

In addition to the gardens, visitors had the chance to view a temporary display marking the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The display, mounted by the Parochial Church Council, was in the village's architecturally fascinating St Luke's Parish Church, regarded by Simon Jenkins as one of England's 1000 best church buildings. The Church contains a life-size Victorian memorial depicting Waterloo veteran, Colonel Edward Cheney of the Scots Greys astride his dying horse. It is possibly the only such magnificent statue in an English church.

David and Roger are in discussion about a possible 2016 Tour, and the Trust is hoping to have a further garden opening. An email to djpk34@hotmail.com would bring details when available in 2016. *www.lhct.org.uk*

***David Knowles,** LHCT*

Left: Tur Langton St Andrew still seen virtually as built in Oxford Movement style .

Patrick Lepper—a tribute

1941 – 2015

Patrick Lepper's death in late April was a matter of great sadness and sense of loss on the part of all who knew him in many walks of life.

Patrick was not just interested in churches, in their architecture and history, he cared about them and he devoted his time and energy over many years to making others aware of this great heritage, the need to care for it and the practicalities of doing so. This often found expression through the vital task of fundraising.

Having been involved in the Oxfordshire County Trust, when he moved to Hertfordshire, he was the prime mover in setting up the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust in 1991. His experience guided the development of the Trust in its early years and he was its second Chairman.

Patrick's other great contribution was to set up the Bike 'n Hike as the Trust's main fundraiser. He established and ran a network which, for several years now, has successfully raised a six-figure sum.

His commitment to the Trust and its work in church repair was absolute.

His knowledge of churches and church architecture was encyclopaedic.

He led many church tours for members of the Trust and they were always informed and interesting.

He read Classics and, preparing for one tour, he translated the Latin on a memorial, uncovering a story of illicit love!

There was, too, national involvement. Patrick was a Trustee of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (now the National Churches Trust) and was Chairman of its grants committee. He also chaired the National Committee which supports the Ride+Stride across the county trusts.

In his professional career, Patrick was a railway man and he had the helpful knack of attracting other able railway men into the management of the Trust.

He had a great respect for the past, the Book of Common Prayer, the King James Bible and old-fashioned courtesy.

It is perhaps no surprise that in his later years, Patrick took up falconry. A man of many parts and singular insight, he will be greatly missed.

Archie Russell,
Trustee, BHHCT

Charitable Incorporated Organisations

Should County Trusts become CIOs? Can we help each other?

At the CTF Annual Conference in Winchester Amanda Francis of chartered accountants Buzzacotts argued that those of us which are still constituted as unincorporated charitable trusts should seriously consider becoming Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs). Amongst other advantages this would give trustees better protection from liability in an increasingly litigious age. I was delighted to hear this because OHCT hopes to become a CIO within the next year. So far it is proving less daunting (and expensive) than we feared.

We have been guided by Charity Commission's advisory CC22a at https://www.gov.uk/charity-types-how-to-choose-a-structure and we are using the Charity Commission's off-the-peg model constitution for a "Foundation CIO". This is at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390171/FoundationModelConstitution.pdf.

This enabled us to take all the policy decisions between the options the model provides and to do all the drafting ourselves before getting Henmans Freeth, a local firm of solicitors specialising in charity law, to vet the result and advise us about implementation.

This has been well worthwhile even at a cost of £600. That is where we have got to so far. Finalising the actual deed and registering it look to be fairly straightforward. The CIO will be a new legal entity with a new Charity number and a new but probably very similar formal name. We expect however to be allowed to retain the same 'working name'. We will then transfer all our assets and liabilities over to the new entity. We have to persuade our bank to allow us to continue to use our existing bank accounts (some banks according to Amanda are happy to do this) and we have to negotiate a similar arrangement with HMRC in relation to GiftAid. Nevertheless our legal advice is that we should retain our existing charitable trust as a shell indefinitely since we hope to attract legacies and a bequest in favour of a defunct organisation might not find it way to us.

I will be happy to share our draft deed with colleagues from other county trusts when our trustees have approved the final version in the autumn. Clearly I cannot give legal advice but I would also be happy to share various other internal documents about the process. In exchange I hope that any other county trusts going down this route would be prepared to share their experience and wisdom.

***Basil Eastwood**, Chairman,*
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Incorporation: making a Trust a legal entity in its own right rather than just being a body of individual Trustees

A note from John Mills, Chairman, Churches Trust Forum

Many thanks to Basil for his article. Valuable lessons will be learnt by those trusts that lead the way with making this change and we look forward to hearing from Basil as the situation progresses. It is evident that pros and cons to CIOs which appear to offer solutions to the risks of running trusts. If a trust wishes to "incorporate", it will need to consider very carefully the implications of doing so. Individual Trust Deeds are unique and each trust will need to take its own legal advice if it wishes to follow a path to incorporation.

The CTF sees advantages in taking the CIO route to incorporation, principally because it is designed for charities and CIOs have only to report and account to the Charity Commission. We are liaising with the National Churches Trust and Basil to prepare an information pack on CIOs which will be circulated and made available on the National Churches Trust website, www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Historic Religious Buildings Alliance

a group within the Heritage Alliance

Creating a stronger voice for ecclesiastical heritage

The CTF and the National Churches Trust believe that working together makes us stronger. So does being well informed and well connected. Churches trusts and NCT can do a lot by working together particularly in the current environment which encourages collaboration and partnerships.

Linking in to the wider heritage sector is important so that the importance of our churches is understood at the highest levels. The Heritage Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA) offers a conduit to government and public bodies.

HRBA is an independently-funded group within the Heritage Alliance (established in 2002 as Heritage Link). This is the biggest alliance of heritage interests in the UK and was set up to promote the central role of the non-Government movement in the heritage sector.

What they do

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance was set up in 2008. It brings together those working for a secure future for historic religious buildings.

For everyone: A free e-newsletter keeps everyone up to date with news and events concerning the future of historic religious buildings.

For members: They provide briefings to members on matters of mutual interest, help them share information with each other, and publicise their activities via the e-newsletter. The CTF and some churches trusts such as the Norfolk Churches Trust are members already. HRBA's news is sometimes circulated to the trusts but if your trust wishes to join it is very welcome to do so.

Consultations: When appropriate, they provide a communication channel with government for our representative members, on matters affecting historic religious buildings in Great Britain.

Becky Payne, who two years ago authored *Churches for Communities, adapting Oxfordshire's Churches for wider uses* published by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and who is also now the National Support Officer at the NCT, is Development Officer.

The Chair of the HRBA is Trevor Cooper, Chairman of the Council of the Ecclesiological Society. His passion for ecclesiastical heritage and its future has resulted in several important publications. Until recently, Matthew Seward of the NCT, was Deputy Chair of the HRBA.

For more information, to sign up with the e-newsletter or to look into membership, visit http://www.hrballiance.org.uk/

Share your news

If you have a story, update or best practice to share in the next CTF Newsletter, we would love to hear from you.
Please email your contributions to: alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

This section of the newsletter includes some of the ways the National Churches Trust is working with the CTF to support local trusts.

The National Churches Trust has been supporting the CTF and the National Ride+Stride Committee in their work in a variety of ways in recent years. Your trust may also have approached them for advice.

In 2016, NCT will increase its support. One change will be expanding its website to better showcase the work being done locally by your trust.

NCT will also make more information about the Annual Conference publicly available and will host information and documents on behalf of the CTF and the Ride+Stride National Committee.

Plans are being developed on how to implement this over coming months. We hope that we can bring a number of helpful resources to you.

Trusts will, of course, be consulted on these new developments. Your views are essential in making sure that our joint work is well directed and useful.

Saturday, 12 September 2015

The majority of churches trusts' grant giving relies on income from Ride+Stride. Thanks must go to the organisers across England who make their local event happen through their hard work and dedication.

Whatever the name of your trust's event, the CTF wish you a successful and prosperous event.

Check your trust's entry on the new look national website, http://www.rideandstrideuk.org/

We have had increased contact with the Ride+Stride Standing Committee over the last year and look forward to working with them in the future. For more information, see David Knowle's article on page 10.

If your trust has not taken up the offer of a monthly fee free account with JustGiving and you would like to before your trust's event this year please contact Alison Pollard.

To contact Alison, email: alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects

Nominate your favourite projects **by 31 December**

The National Churches Trust and the Marsh Christian Trust have launched the Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects a new competition to find the Christian congregations running the most innovative community projects in a church building made possible through the installation of new facilities such as meeting spaces, kitchens, toilets or Improved access.

Above: Almeley Wootton Quaker Meeting House, Herefordshire, Extension, 2013

Run with the support of the Marsh Christian Trust, the Innovative Project Awards are designed to show the positive impact installing well planned facilities can have on churches and local communities and on harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers.

These Awards have been designed with county trusts in mind and will provide promotional opportunities for us all. Nominations for the awards can be made online at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/marshawards by trusts and charities that are working to support and help church communities. Projects can be nominated for the awards from 1 May until 31 December 2015.

For the first awards, any adaptation of the building or installation of new facilities must have taken place in 2014 or 2015. The first winner will be announced at the Churches Trusts Forum Annual Conference in York in 2016 and a £1,000 award will be presented to the church judged to be the overall winner. There will also be a runners up award.

Key criteria the judges will look for will include:

- Impact – the level of demonstrable social benefit.
- Best practice in management – the level of planning, organization, effort and coordination within the means and circumstances of the project organisers.
- Imagination – the origin of the idea and reasons for the project.
- Deprivation – How deprived or marginalised communities are served by the project.

Projects should be managed by the place of worship's managing body, or a charity that has been set up and is owned by the place of worship's managing body, and able to demonstrate that projects are making a valuable contribution to their local community. Projects should not be run by other charities that are hiring the building or parts of the building for their use.

Brian Marsh OBE, founder and Chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust said: "We set up these awards with the National Churches Trust to recognise the excellent work being done by church volunteers in transforming their places of worship to help expand their work in addressing local need within their communities.

"We hope that the awards will help highlight the outstanding efforts of these volunteers in reaching out and supporting those in need."

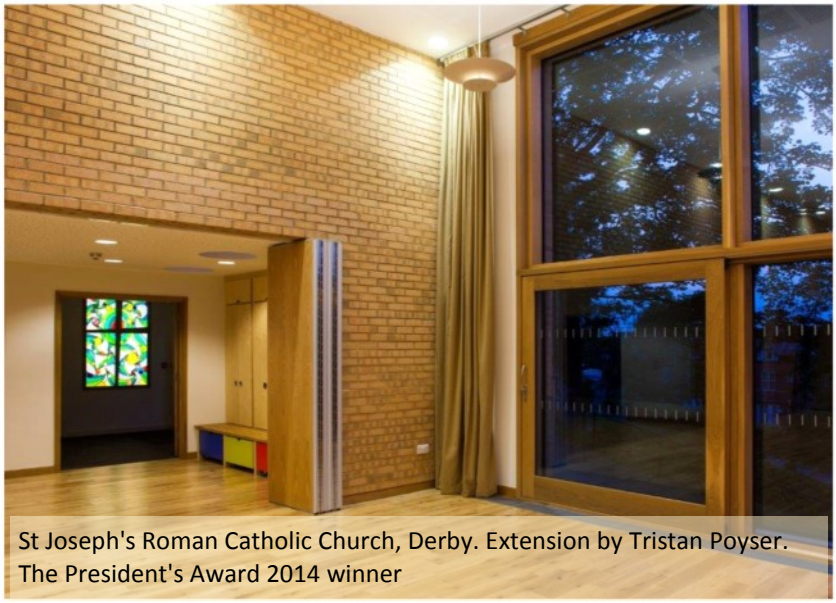
Claire Walker, Chief Executive, National Churches Trust said: "New facilities such as kitchens, toilets or meeting spaces can help places of worship become community hubs which can provide increased and most valued support for local people. The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects provide an opportunity to showcase the best community projects being run in the UK's church buildings."

Contact Alison Pollard for information, alison.pollard@nationalchurchesturst.org

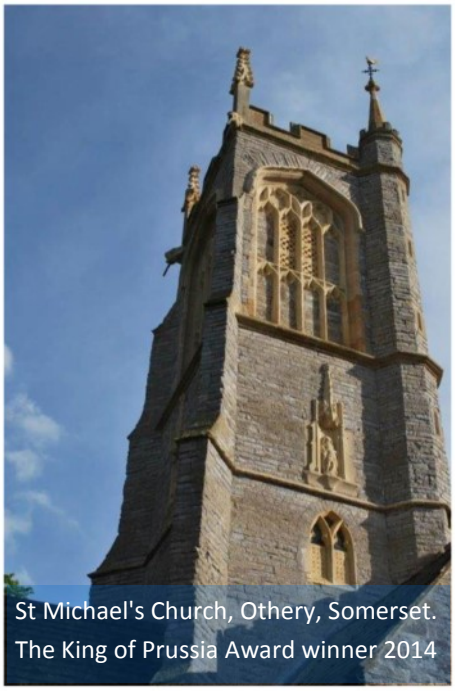
Other Awards—We're looking for the best new and conservation architecture for our Church Architecture Awards—your church can win our architecture awards

The National Churches Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association are inviting entries for two top church architecture awards.

New church buildings and new designs in church alterations or extensions can be entered for The Presidents' Award. The Presidents' Award is awarded on behalf of the National Churches Trust's Joint Presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) President. The winning church or chapel will receive a £500 prize.



St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Derby. Extension by Tristan Poyser. The President's Award 2014 winner



St Michael's Church, Othery, Somerset. The King of Prussia Award winner 2014

Innovative, high quality church conservation or repair work can be entered for The King of Prussia Gold Medal. The Gold Medal was the gift of King Freidrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia in 1857 who was highly impressed with British Victorian church architecture. The architects responsible for the winning project will receive the prestigious King of Prussia Gold Medal. The winning church or chapel will receive a £500 prize.

This year, HRH The Duke of Gloucester will be a special guest judge for the 2015 Presidents' Award and the King of Prussia Gold Medal.

The **deadline** for submitting projects is **31 August 2015**. From the entries, a shortlist will be announced in September and winners will be revealed at a special awards ceremony held at Westminster Cathedral Hall on 5 November 2015.

Nominations for the two design awards can be made by architects, chartered surveyors, churches and chapels and anyone else with a passion for great church architecture. Submitting a nomination can be done online by completing a simple form at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/architectureawards

For more information, contact info@nationalchurchestrust.org

ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

National Churches Trust

Preparations for 2015 Ride+ Stride events on 12 September are occupying County Co-ordinators in 33 English Counties. With 1.3 million raised last year, and some counties reporting increases in sponsorship, there is every reason to continue the events with enthusiasm.

For the majority of County Churches Trusts their event remains the primary annual fundraising opportunity, and in others the principal source of income to provide grants.

Enthusiastic commitment was certainly evident at Winkburn Hall, near Southwell Minster in early July when Nottinghamshire Ride+Stride Organisers met to collect their information packs from County Co-ordinator, Keith Goodman and enjoy the trustees' hospitality. A nice "thank you" to volunteers.

Ride+Stride is alive and well

My wife and I were delighted to be invited. Speaking to the 70-strong gathering, I was able personally to thank Keith, the Trust's Treasurer, for stepping in as Co-ordinator last year when the event was in danger of cancellation, recognise the achievements of the Local Organisers and pass on the National Committee's message that Ride+Stride is alive and well and their efforts important in support of church heritage.

***David Knowles DL**, Chairman, National Ride+Stride Committee, LHCT*

From discussions at the National Committee:

- Plans are progressing to create guidance and information on Ride+Stride forms and procedures to assist County Co-ordinators with the help of the National Churches Trust
- The National Ride+Stride website has been re-designed and is most attractive. Counties have responded well, providing images and captions for five churches which can be added to each county page.
- The Committee encourages counties to try online fund-raising through JustGiving, with free set-up through the NCT, to recognise the benefits of publicity through social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, and to advise the NCT of County Patrons and Supporters who may be personalities willing to promote Ride+Stride nationally. Contact Alison Pollard at the NCT for information on using Bear Grylls' photo and quote as part of your marketing.
- Recognition was given to the keen support to Ride+Stride of the late Patrick Lepper (Founder of Beds & Herts HCT), one-time Chairman of the National Committee and NCT past Trustee (see page 6).
- Cheshire has succeeded in involving the County's Guide and Scout Movements in 2015 Ride+Stride. The funds raised to be split 50/50 between the Movements and Cheshire HCT. Somerset previously arranged similarly with another charity. Such initiatives are in accord with the National Formula for Ride+Stride.
- It is thought that more prominence in publicity to the link between Ride+Stride fundraising and the award of grants to churches might assist public understanding of why the events are important. Please contact us or the NCT if we can help.
- Some counties are considering tying in with Heritage Open Days or other initiatives. Heritage Open Days now indicates Ride+Stride churches. The proceeds can still be passed to your trust and can be shared with the hosting church. Devon has successfully promoted the idea of wider events for a few years and Leicestershire has advertised the opportunity for the first time.
- The National Chairman attended the CTF March meeting to advise members of the current Ride+Stride arrangements and encourage active support through their County trustees. CTF Chairman, John Mills reciprocated and spoke at the Committee's March meeting. The Committee has also been fortunate in the attendance of the NCT Chair and Chief Executive to its meetings.
- The annual National County Co-ordinators' meeting is to take place on Thursday, 12 November at 7 Tufton Street. If the Co-ordinator is unavailable, a representative from a County is welcome and encouraged to attend. Enquiries to National Committee Secretary, the Revd Preb David Crowhurst (Shropshire), d.crowhurst@btinternet.com

Churches Trusts Forum Members

John Mills CTF Chairman	Devon	Devon, Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall	johnmills49@btinternet.com
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To be confirmed	Kent	Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire	
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