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Welcome to the first Edition of the Ride+Stride Newsletter—Spring 2021

Saturday 12th September 2020

Result: £112,528

AMAZING! Thank you!

The Trust's Chairman, John Stokoe was delighted to announce this result. "There was a point in the year when we considered calling off the whole event," he said. "But we have been blessed with great supporters all over the county and I thank them all wholeheartedly."

Those parishes who made a financial contribution to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride+Stride event last September, will already know that over £110,000 was raised. This is an incredible effort and an enormous thank you must go to the cyclists, walkers and riders who took part in what was (and continues to be) a quite trying and difficult time.

As you know, Ride+Stride is special insofar as participants are able to nominate a church or other charity to receive 50% of what they raise. This 50% usually goes to their local church which can use the funds in whatever way they wish. Participating churches have already received their share and another HUGE THANK YOU to the Parish Organisers who coped with the new system of payment and receipt. Thank you for your support.



The winner of the Morshead Trophy this year is the parish of Hilton and Ansty. The Morshead Trophy is awarded each year to the parish, which in the opinion of the Trustees, achieved the most impressive results. This is not necessarily the parish raising the most money. This tiny community raised £2,837 only just topped by last year's winner, St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall. All Saint's, Hilton and Ansty has consistently raised significant totals despite being one of the smaller settlements in Dorset.

As you know, the Morshead Trophy presentation event to celebrate the success of the 2019 R+S at Sturminster Marshall was cancelled due to the global pandemic. At the time of writing, preparations for both 2019 and 2020 presentations are being planned, but will need to comply with government restrictions and so details will be communicated separately to those parishes which made a financial contribution to the DHCT in either 2019 or 2020 as soon as we are able.



Not only was Saturday 12th September 2020, our Ride+Stride event, it was also the day of the World's Biggest Bike Ride. Dilys Garside, Cycling Instructor sent the following report.

"Wow, what a day we had. Perfect cycling weather, wonderful views of the Stour Valley, interesting company, the Hinton St Mary fountained fishpond and a variety of old churches. Blackberrying and a picnic lunch. We cycled 56 kilometres (35 miles) over four hours.

The photo (above) shows some of the group at Kington Magna."

Right, shows Uploders Methodist Chapel awaiting its first visitors.

Thirty-two parishes raised over £1,000 of which five were very close to £2,000 and another eight almost £1,000.

Grant Aid and Loans

Due to the overwhelming success of the 2020 event, the Trustees have increased the funds available for grants and loans to £125,000.

Earlier this year, the Trust was able to announce grants to help repair eight of the county's beautiful church buildings totalling over £40,000. This was the first of three batches of grants to be made this year – all possible by the great success of the Ride+Stride in September 2020.

All the churches supported by the Trust have great need and they all play a vital role in Dorset towns and villages, not just as places of worship, but also as community hubs.



There are also a significant number of parishes who do not take part in this fundraising event. There are lots of ways to encourage participation.

We are now getting ready for the 2021 R+S Event on Saturday 11th September 2021

Any changes to Parish Organiser contact information should be notified to me as soon as possible. Your help in ensuring contact information is correct, would be most welcome. An e-mail address makes communication fast, efficient and effective especially for Deanery Area Representatives. Thank you for your co-operation.

As usual, you should receive your Parish Organiser pack, through your Deanery Area Representative, by the end of July at the latest. Please let me know if you have not received your pack by this time. All the documents will also be uploaded to the website by early June and available to you to print locally if more supplies are needed.

Check the DHCT website: <https://www.dhct.org.uk/>