Welcome to the second Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Newsletter, 10th September, the date of this year’s Ride & Stride event is fast approaching and we very much hope that you are planning to take part and to raise sponsorship for BHCT.

The website [www.bucks-historic-churches.org](http://www.bucks-historic-churches.org) has everything you need to take part in Ride & Stride. All the necessary forms are available to download and there is a list of churches to help you plan your route. There will be well over 200 churches open with many offering refreshments. Some churches will only have a register on the door to record your visit; please do this as it will help us to plan for next year’s event.

Just Giving: Organising your sponsorship through Just Giving is straightforward and is a safe and very efficient way of raising much needed funds to enable BHCT to continue its valuable work. [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) There are helpful hints and links to Just Giving on the BHCT website too. However if you prefer to use paper sponsorship forms these can be downloaded from the website or obtained from your local organiser.

County Show – Weedon Showground, Thursday 1st September
The hosts of the Churches “Rest a While” tent at the County Show have very kindly agreed to us taking a tiny corner of their valuable space to promote BHCT and Ride & Stride, so if you are at the show do drop in to the “Rest a While” tent for a complimentary drink and cake and come and say hello.

Heritage Open Days
If you have been perusing the Heritage Open Days website [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) then you will already be aware of the stunning array of places to visit over the weekend of 8th - 11th September. When planning your Ride & Stride adventure you may like to consider factoring some of the HOD activities into your route, there are some suggestions further on in this newsletter.

Claydon Deanery
If, rather than planning your own route, you would prefer to join an organised walk, the Claydon Deanery has the following walks arranged which you are welcome to join.
The Schorne Team walk will start at 10am from St Michael and All Angels Church Waddesdon, the walk is approximately 17 miles and finishes at Weedon School Room
around 4.30pm. Should you wish to join in, but not walk the whole route, please register your interest at ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org by 6pm on Friday 9th September and you will be sent details of how to join in.

St Michael and All Angels, Waddesdon, is open for HOD. Take part in a short (sponsored) walk, suitable for prams and buggies, around the benefice churches (Waddesdon, Upper Winchendon and Westcott). Refreshments will be available all day together with cream teas, bell ringing and church and tower tours. Celebrating the Swan Team's 40th anniversary Ride & Striders from all seven churches in the team (including two included in Simon Jenkin's thousand best churches) will be setting off from Barton Hartshorn church at 9.00 am and reaching Grendon Underwood, around about 5.00 pm. To sustain them they will be partaking of a ploughman's lunch at the Crown pub in Twyford. As an extra bit of fun, the Swan Team is also holding a photo’ competition with prizes for the most humorous pictures of the day. Again if you would like to join in all or part of the walk please email ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org for more details.

ABVM North Marston – St Mary's Church fete at the village hall 12.00 to 15.00, pop in on your way past!

Winslow – if you are walking or riding in the Winslow area please be aware that the Catholic Church is now closed. The former church building is on private land and may no longer be accessed.

Milton Keynes Deanery

St Mary & St Giles Church, Stony Stratford – this church’s Willis Pipe Organ has been newly restored and a Celebratory Festival takes place over HOD weekend (8th – 11th September) http://www.musicforallsmsg.org/whats-on/festival/

Ride & Striders with young families might like to plan a gentle day out in Stony Stratford strolling between the six churches in the town, admiring their exteriors and then taking part in a family concert for 4-11 year olds (and their families) at St Mary & St Giles, followed by a teddy bears picnic in the church hall next door. The concert begins at 15.00. Booking is essential as there are only 60 places available. http://thelittleboxoffice.com/musicforallsmsg/book/event/44605

St Mary’s Church, Woughton on the Green Exhibition - A Changing Landscape. Open 10.00 to17.00. Take a break from your Ride or Stride and stimulate your mind at this exhibition. Light refreshments will be available.

Meet at St James Church, New Bradwell at 12.30pm for a walk led by MK Heritage Association. Why not gather sponsorship and take part in this? There is a RIBA exhibition at St James church too. Pre booking is preferred so please contact Dianne Sutton 01908 606256 or email: diannesutton@tesco.net

All Saints Church Loughton Visit this 13th century church and see how it has been modernised to respond to the needs 21st century. Open 10.00 – 18.00 A lovely bright church which has benefitted from BHCT funding in the past.
St Lawrence Church, Broughton
This redundant church will be open 10.00 – 16.00. There will be a children’s activity and adults will appreciate the wall paintings and stained glass.

♫St Andrews Church, Parklands Great Linford coffee morning and table top sale 10am to 12noon. There will be Bell ringing demonstrations with live CCTV to show the workings of the bells as they are rung. Open 10.00-16.00.

After an exhausting day on foot, on horseback or on your bike raising funds for Ride & Stride round off your day by relaxing at St Mary & St Giles Church, Stony Stratford with the Saturday Night Silent Movie ‘Safety Last!’ accompanied by Donald MacKenzie, international virtuoso concert organist, as he improvises a live soundtrack to Harold Lloyd’s classic 1923 film, giving you an authentic Jazz Age experience of this iconic romantic comedy.
This event is being promoted by Independent Cinema Milton Keynes
More details and booking at http://www.musicforallmsg.org/whats-on/festival/

♫ Or partake of a well-earned supper at the Calcutta Brasserie in Stony Stratford, excellent Indian cuisine in an interesting 17th century grade 2 listed former chapel. Booking is advisable.

Aylesbury Deanery
♫St Mary the Virgin, Aylesbury the bell tower ringing chamber will be open; try your hand at bell ringing. Bucks Family History Society will have a display of parish maps and books of parish records.

♫Aylesbury Quaker Meeting House 9/11 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury Meeting house and Peace garden - once the Quaker burial ground – open 10.00-16.00 Members will be available to answer questions about Quakerism and the building

Amersham Deanery
♫Two churches in Amersham Deanery offering bell experience

♫Holy Trinity Church, Penn
Bell tower 13.00 – 17.00 open 10.00 – 17.00

♫Chalfont St Peter Church
13.00 -15.00 Experience church bells being rung, not suitable for children under 12.

Buckingham Deanery
♫Stowe As part of Heritage Open Days there will be free entry to Stowe House, ABVM Church and the Gothic Temple between 10.00 – 18.00 on Saturday 10th, plan a R&S walk around the 250 acres of garden and visit the fascinating temples and monuments which will also be open to visitors for this special day. Why not gather sponsorship for each folly you visit?

♫Nash is holding a Village Fete on 10th September so if you are planning to walk or ride in this area why not factor in a visit to Nash mid afternoon. The Fete takes place on the Village Hall which is next to the church. There will be lots of stalls, a bar, teas, cakes etc.
Wendover Deanery Enjoy a family day out in the Wendover Deanery, why not combine a family Ride & Stride around the local churches with a visit to The Roald Dahl Museum on Saturday 10th September they are holding a Chocolate Decorating activity, surely a well-deserved treat for children who have walked or ridden some distance. www.roalddahl.com/museum booking is essential.

Burnham & Slough Deanery
△St. Laurence Church, Upton Court Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 7LU
St Laurence's Church, Grade I listed, is the oldest building in Slough. The grave of Sir William Herschel who discovered Uranus is here, along with many other family graves of interest. There is a Heritage area including local displays and the Herschel area including a brand new model telescope. Church and churchyard tours available all day. Open 10.00 – 18.00 Refreshments & toilets available.

Newport Deanery
Newport Pagnell has 6 churches all offering refreshments and toilet facilities all day on September 10th, it is lovely to see so much support for Ride & Stride in one area. What a great opportunity to spend a day ambling around the town visiting each church in turn. Milton Keynes Heritage website. http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/nphs/docs/trail/trail.html has a map and details of the churches as well as other buildings of note in the town and explains some of the history. There are also some relevant details of the history of the Baptist church in Newport Pagnell here http://www.npbc.org.uk/Groups/243423/Our_History.aspx

Mursley Deanery
Ivinghoe Town Hall is the venue of a Flower Show on 10th September open from 14.00-16.00 http://pitstone.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Ivinghoe-Flower-and-Vegetable-Show-1.pdf, (produce will be auctioned off at 16.15) So maybe include the lovely Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ivinghoe on your Ride & Stride route. You could partake of refreshments at the church and then amble along to the town hall to admire the many classes of produce at the show.
Or after a gruelling day of Ride & Stride raising lots of funds for BHCT, treat yourself to supper at the Wingrave Sausage, Ale and Cider Festival open 13.00 – 20.00 https://allevents.in/events/wingrave-sausage-ale-and-cider-festival-no-3/1075024929240233

Wycombe Deanery
This is the Deanery with the largest number of churches open for Ride & Stride, lots of them offering refreshments. Gather your sponsorship and then set off for fascinating day’s visiting. If you are star struck then a visit to St Lawrence Church, West Wycombe is a must, as part of the new Bridget Jones film – Bridget Jones’s Baby – (due for release on 16th September) was filmed there. St Lawrence also appears in Sir Simon Jenkins’ book - England’s Thousand Best Churches - where it is noted for its lavish “Palmyra” interior, although it is probably better known for its prominent location and the golden globe atop its tower.

YOU CAN RIDE & STRIDE ON ANY DAY, NOT JUST ON 10th SEPTEMBER, (although you will have to fill in your own record sheet). If Sunday 11th September happens to suit you better The Chesham Society (Aylesbury Deanery) have organised a stunning array of venues (as part of HOD) to visit on Sunday 11th September including many historic places of worship, houses of note and even a fairground organ restorer, you might need to run or cycle to visit all the places on offer, but they sound fascinating, so why not raise some sponsorship for Ride & Stride and have a day out with a difference. Details can be found via the link below or on the Heritage Open Day website – details at end of this newsletter – or on
And Finally **Don't forget to take a pen or pencil with you as you Ride & Stride** so that you can fill out the registers on the church doors and also record your progress on your own record sheet, this information will be very useful to us in planning for next year’s event, so even if you collect all your sponsorship online please return your record sheet to your parish representative.

If during your **Ride & Stride** day you take any interesting **photographs** that you are happy to share we would be delighted to receive them at ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org

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**Ride & Stride 2017**

Will take place on Saturday 9th September, pop the date in your diary now and maybe consider making a weekend of it by including a night of Champing!

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On behalf of all the Ride & Stride Team, we wish you all a very successful day on September 10th

ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org