

Ride and Stride

The September 12 2009 Ride and Stride raised £26,169, with an additional £4,200 recoverable in Gift Aid. The Trust and the churches chosen by the participants will receive half each. This total was slightly lower than in 2008 and more worryingly, the lowest since 1998. But many thanks to all who participated and particularly to CHCT Trustee Canon Chris Barber who raised £890, and the Revd John Graham (better known as Araucaria, compiler of Guardian crosswords), who raised the extraordinary sum of £1,542.

With the loss of the WREN grant, we are especially keen to increase our income from the day and want to make the 2010 Ride and Stride as successful as we possibly can. We will be helped by the National Churches Trust who will be promoting the event nationally (see www.rideandstrideuk.org) but we need your help too! In just two hours, you could walk around ten churches and college chapels in Cambridge or cycle to the same number in the countryside. And you know it does you good!

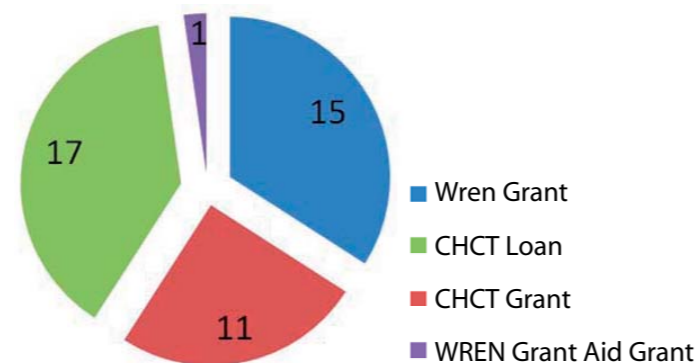
We need a new County Organiser and some new deanery organisers too. The latter distribute the information around their area and answer any queries (or pass them on to the County Organiser), so are at their busiest in May and around the day of the Ride. You don't need to ride yourself, see the time you give as your contribution!

A new County Organiser will be the key to our success this year and could also contribute as a member of the Executive Committee, so if anyone wants to make this valuable contribution to the Trust (and so to the churches of Cambridgeshire), please contact the Chairman at 01353 645131.

Our grants

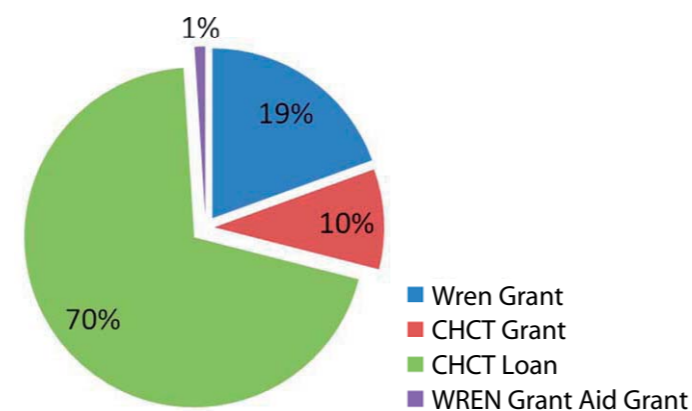
The full list of grants and loans made in 2008/09 appeared in the annual Report, but the 'pie-charts' below show how much we have depended on the WREN block grant to help Cambridgeshire churches.

Number of grants and loans



Trust money has been concentrated on making loans to 17 places of worship, often in addition to grants. We believe a loan is an incentive to get the works underway; wallets can open when a scaffold goes up as donors can see the project has actually started.

How we offer our funds



Of the 28 projects helped, 25 were Church of England churches, one each United Reformed and Methodist churches and one a Friends Meeting House.

• RIGHT: A WREN grant of £6,000 was spent on new stonework and a lead roof at St Peter, Horningsea.



• The work at the top of the tower of St Mary's Great Eversden was helped with a WREN grant of £7,000



• CHCT offered a loan of £12,000 and a WREN grant of £5,000 towards a new toilet at St Leonard, Little Downham.



• St James the Great, Waresley. A grant of £1,000 enabled the bell installation project to be completed after costs rose.



From the Chairman

The Trust offers grants and loans to places of worship from money we raise ourselves and from funding derived from the Landfill Communities Fund by Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN). Last year's Newsletter warned that the latter was likely to diminish as the nation increased its efforts to recycle rubbish. However, the Trust was taken aback to learn in November that WREN would no longer be awarding us a block grant to distribute to Cambridgeshire churches on their behalf. WREN's decision follows concern about its ability to meet the landfill tax regulations when grants are offered by a third party like CHCT.

In effect, our available funding for grants has more than halved. In each of the last four years, we have given an average of £56300 in grants, equally split between WREN and CHCT. In addition, WREN has given us awards from their Gift-aid fund totalling nearly £34000 since 2006. We are told 'WREN would still like to be able to support Churches and we are looking for ways of being able to provide funding under a new program (sic)...but it is unlikely there will be any firm news before June 2010'. Trustees expect to have awarded the entire WREN monies by June, so we have decided to use all last year's income for CHCT grants in 2010/11 (rather than increase the money for loans). Most of our annual income comes from the annual Ride and Stride event in September and so we will be putting extra effort into it this year (see page 4).



• Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville. The Trust offered a loan of £20,000 and a grant of £5,000 towards an extension for new facilities being added to the north of this Grade 1 church.

We have also looked hard at our own expenses in running CHCT and concluded that we are no longer covering basic running costs – the Annual Report, this newsletter, Ride and Stride, website – from our

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From the Secretary

Following the untimely death of our long-serving Membership Secretary Peter Hewitt, I am doing my best for the time being to fulfil his former duties.

Peter maintained his records punctiliously but in written form; with Andrew Westwood-Bate's expert assistance, I have now compiled a computerised database. I am very grateful to those of you who have already confirmed your details.

However, I cannot guarantee that I have transferred all the information with total accuracy, it would therefore be very helpful if you would check the address label on the envelope in which this Newsletter has arrived and alert me to any errors. If you have e-mail and are willing to receive appropriate communications from the Trust by this means, could you send me an email to this effect? I emphasise that we would only use this method to send simple communications and would not send bulky or complex attachments which may take an excessive time to download or consume large quantities of ink if printed.

I must also make it clear that the Trust will only use your contact details for the purpose of the Trust's business within its charitable objectives and for informing you of matters relevant to those objectives. Your details will not be divulged to any third party without your express consent.

David Stazicker

The trust is an independent Charity with a primary task to support the repair and restoration of places of Christian worship in Cambridgeshire. Its funds accrue from the annual sponsored cycle ride and are used to make grants and interest-free loans to churches. It also gives grants from Landfill Tax Credits made available through Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN). Support to the Trust is also given through Membership. Members receive advance notices of the Annual Conference and the summer afternoon Church Tours. Annual subscription is £10.

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From the Chairman contd.

subscriptions. This is not so surprising, as we believe it is at least twenty years since the present £10 minimum annual subscription was set! After comparing CHCT with other county church trusts, Trustees now wish to raise the annual member subscription to £20. We have decided not to introduce a 'couples' rate with its increased bureaucracy, but will continue to offer a reduced fee for the annual conference to each member and a guest. These new rates will be presented to the AGM for introduction from January 2011.

Unlike some other trusts, our programme of church tours will remain free, as we wish to encourage as many people to come as possible (but we will try to recruit new members.) The congregational subscription will also be raised to £50 and we will expect grant and loan recipients to take out a congregational subscription for up to four years, so contributing to our funds for the benefit of others.

This increase in subscriptions entails a major overhaul of our membership list and we are taking the brave step to computerise it! We will also introduce a standard 1st January renewal date from January 2011 and forms for payment at the new rate will be distributed with the papers for the Annual General Meeting to be held in October 2010. Members who are due to pay an annual subscription between 1st July and 31st December this year will be credited with half the new annual subscription.

These changes should make the Trust easier and cheaper to run and once set up, enable your hard working Executive to concentrate on our real business, raising and distributing funds for the repair and enhancement of the historic places of worship in Cambridgeshire. Thank you to all our members for your support over the last year and our special thanks to Archdeacon Hugh McCurdy, who has donated £1,000 raised from his sponsored cycle ride last year to all the churches in his archdeaconry. Thank you, Hugh.

Peter Hewitt – An immense contribution

The sudden death of Peter Hewitt, our tireless membership secretary, greatly saddened us all. Trustees who attended his memorial service in his beloved St Wendreda's Church in March were astounded to discover just how many other activities Peter was involved with – however did he find the time for CHCT? His contribution was immense and we were very touched that he remembered us in his will; his legacy will be commemorated by a grant in his name.

Moving on and moving in

We wish Rt Revd Anthony Russell and his wife Sheila a long and happy retirement in Oxfordshire. Their strong support for CHCT during his ten years as Bishop of Ely is very much appreciated.

Trustees welcomed Rt Revd Dr David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon, as a new CHCT Trustee in January. His diocesan knowledge will be invaluable in guiding our work, but Bishop David is also a scholar of mediaeval art and architecture and so we look forward to benefiting from his academic contributions too.

Congratulations to our founding Trustee Julian Limentani for being made a lay canon of Peterborough Cathedral (where he is the Chapter's architect) and the award of a Papal Medal for his architectural services to the Diocese of East Anglia, both in 2009.

Today's Cambridgeshire includes the former Soke of Peterborough, now a unitary authority. The southern part is in the Church of England diocese of Ely, the northern in the diocese of Peterborough. We therefore look forward to welcoming Ven. Donald Allister when he is installed as the new Bishop of Peterborough after Easter.

Protecting metal roofs

2009 has brought some respite from the spate of thefts from metal roofs, though there appears to be a rising trend now (possibly due to the longer winter nights).

Insurance companies, especially EIG (see www.ecclesiastical.com) encourage preventative measures and there is a great deal of practical advice available from them and from www.nationalchurchwatch.com and www.beatmetaltheft.org

CHCT will offer 50% of the cost of applying Smartwater to a maximum grant of £1000. Using it should at least double the amount of your cover in the event of a theft to £5000 (which is actually close to the average claim value). CHCT is extending its offer to the cost of installing an alarm or CCTV system that meets the approval of your insurers. These are not as expensive as you might think, especially if they can be mounted in the tower overlooking hidden roofs; monitoring and links do need careful thought though. Ask your insurer or architect for advice on what is available and appropriate for you – and don't rely on a salesman's patter!

The diocese of Coventry and English Heritage have joined forces to promote wider access to churches in Warwickshire with the project *Divine Inspiration*. The events and activities listed might give this county's congregations ideas of what can be done. See www.divine-inspiration.org.uk

'Enduring monuments' Church Tour Dates 2010

The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
Conference 2010

Wolfson College, Cambridge,
May 1st 2010, 9.30 for 10.00 – 16.30



Professor Richard Marks 'The rood and remembrance' (medieval rood screens and funerary rites)

Professor Marks curated the major exhibition Gothic at the V & A in 2003-4.

Dr Jean Wilson 'Post reformation memorials' (and what they intended to communicate)

Jean Wilson lives in Harlton and is a council member of the Church Monuments Society.

Dr Julian Litten 'Funerary monuments and attitudes to death in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries'

England's foremost funerary historian; his book 'The English Way of Death' is in its 4th reprinting.

Panel discussion with representatives of the Church Buildings Council and English Heritage and a leading conservator. Advice will be given on the care and repair of monuments, where to get professional help and sources of funding.

For more details and to download the booking form please visit the website www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk/conference.htm

or contact 01223 892430
Conference fees;

CHCT Members and 1 guest	£15.00
Non-members	£20.00
Buffet lunch	£12.00



Sunday 9th May:
WALSOKEN, All Saints
SOUTHEA (PARSON DROVE), Emmanuel
WISBECH ST MARY, St Mary

Sunday 13th June:
COCKAYNE HATLEY, St John the Baptist
EVERTON, St Mary
GAMLINGAY, St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 11th July:
HISTON, St Andrew
LONGSTANTON, All Saints
OAKINGTON, St Andrew

Sunday 8th August:
CHATTERIS, St Peter & St Paul
WITCHFORD, St Andrew
MEPAL, St Mary

Each tour begins at the first church at 2.30 and ends with tea and evensong at the last church

The National Churches Trust will shortly be sending a questionnaire to all places of worship to establish up to date facts with which to persuade Government and others, that more financial support is needed if these buildings are to survive. Please help them if you can, as their national voice is louder than ours!