

## Ride+Stride May Newsletter

If by any chance you are no longer the Local Organiser, can you please let us know and / or pass this Newsletter on to the appropriate person, thank you.

### **Forms and Posters.**

All the forms, now updated, can now be downloaded from [www.shropshirehct.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehct.org.uk) although we will send out the full pack next month, the postage for which has been very kindly sponsored by **Morris and Co. Ltd. Shropshire**. (They also franked the Christmas cards too!)

We are having a change of Poster this year, again benefitting from having looked at other County posters, and we have gone for one without a photo of a Shropshire Church. We are trying a stylised poster this year and one of the benefits is that it can also be downloaded from the website, or copied from the 3 we send to each church and chapel. We do hope you like it; it is very bright and cheerful!

The posters and the fluorescent stickers have very kindly been sponsored by **Wace Morgan's**, Solicitors in Shropshire.

*Registration forms will come with this newsletter. \*\*\*\* **Special offer** If your registration form is identical to last year's just email us by return and we will do the rest!*

### **Risk Assessment.**

Please can you read and take note of the new Risk Assessment document attached. This document has been a long time coming and we are lucky enough to have benefited from another County doing all the hard work for us. It all makes sense and we ask that this information is made available to everyone taking part.

It appears on our Website in full, and reference is made to it on each Sponsorship form and on the Local Organisers Notes. We hope that all participants will take note, and any walking and cycling group leaders need to be asked to pass the information on.

### **Websites, Twitter and Facebook.**

Talking of Websites, Twitter and Facebook...we would be really grateful if you can please advertise on them, and in particular on your own Church Website and magazines, especially mentioning teas, cakes, and extra events you may have come up with!

This is lovely free advertising, and if a cycling or walking group is checking your area out and they see that your church or chapel has tea and cakes and you are open on 10th Sept. that may well make all the difference. They may even choose to ride or walk for your church!

Please also remember to put an article in your parish magazine, or ask us, we are happy to write one for you!

The SHCT has a new website, so please have a look at it, Martin Locke has done a wonderful job on it, and Roger has put some great new photos on from your events last year.

[www.shropshirehct.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehct.org.uk)

### **Banners and Press Launch.**

We will be sending a reminder to those of you who have one of our lovely R+S Banners, (there are only 10) as we would like to get them up earlier this year. We plan to do a Press Launch of Ride+Stride in July, it was in Shrewsbury in 2015 and we hope to be in Oswestry this year, and it would be great if the Banners can go up to co-incide with that date, .....date to be confirmed!

### **Finally a plea from us!**

Last year we had 209 churches and chapels open on the day, but only 83 actually participated....i.e. made any money!

Having your church or chapel open is great, but if no one participates neither the SHCT nor your church receive any money, and R+S needs to continue to raise money to help fund the grants we award each year.

In 2015 SHCT gave out £49,965 between 10 churches, and already this year another 4 churches have been promised a grant, with 4 pending and the year is still young!

Please do contact us if we can be of further help, and remember there are other ways to participate in Ride+Stride beside the obvious!

1. Fill a car with friends and drive to an area where you can easily walk between a few churches and chapels, e.g. Oswestry, Ludlow, Telford, and Shrewsbury.
2. Invite friends to visit a church or chapel near you, give them a Tour with a little history and invite them back to afternoon tea at your home, and charge them at least £5 each! It is much easier than getting sponsorship.
3. Use Park & Ride, and go into town on the bus, e.g. you can walk between at least 13 churches open in Shrewsbury.

Enjoy the much awaited summer and good luck on the day, 10th September!

Angela and Roger Hughes  
County Organisers Shropshire Ride+Stride  
Tel 01743 367166  
Email [r.dhughes@btinternet.com](mailto:r.dhughes@btinternet.com)