

News Release: 24 July 2008

MORE CHURCHES HELPED IN BEDFORDSHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE

"The Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust last year was able to distribute £370,000 to help fund repairs to churches and chapels in the two counties"; this was the message at their annual meeting which was held earlier this month in Sandon, Herts, to coincide with the publication of their Annual Report. An encouraging picture of the Trust's financial performance emerged, with a record number of churches assisted with grants of up to £35,000.

There was a huge increase in income from the annual sponsored Bike 'n Hike event organised throughout both counties and involving between five and ten thousand people as riders, walkers, stewards or sponsors. Last year's event topped £100,000 for the first time, half of which was retained by local churches and the balance plus Gift Aid went to the Trust to be passed on to churches needing help with repairs.

The Trust also distributed £167,000 under the Landfill Communities Fund on behalf of Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN), the charitable arm of the Waste Recycling Group which runs landfill sites in Bedfordshire, and a further £93,000 for a Bedfordshire charity.

"The Bike 'n Hike is our key money raiser and we are hoping there will be even more support for the next one on 13 September", said chief organiser Patrick Lepper. "Not only is it a very worthwhile cause, it can also be a very pleasant way to spend an early autumn day. Churches and chapels will be open throughout Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire offering refreshment to sponsored riders and walkers as they pass through".

"The two counties have many fine churches, which are costly to run and even more costly to preserve. They need as much help as can be offered and the more successful the Bike 'n Hike is, the more we shall be able to offer. We welcome new riders and walkers and they can contact me on 01442 866414 for any further information they might need."

Details of the Trust's performance, grants given and more about the Bike 'n Hike can be found on its website www.bedshertshct.org.uk

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For details of the Bike 'n Hike contact Patrick Lepper on 01442 866414. Other information from Terry Warburton, (Trustee for PR) on 01525 374278.



The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust is a registered charity No.1005697