

RIDE + STRIDES

2012 Results

£89,273 raised

**Friends of Essex Churches Trust
Supporting churches in Essex and East London**

**2013
Ride
& Stride
Saturday
14th
September**

This year we raised **£89,273**. This figure is down on last year but, nevertheless and given the economic climate, it is still a great result. So thank you to those of you who took part on the day – the riders, striders and stewards – and thank you to those of you who in the weeks beforehand encouraged participation on the day. The success of the Ride & Stride depends on all of you.

My ride

This year I got back on my bike and headed for the Harwich and St Osyth areas. Some poor navigation by my husband on the A120 resulted in us starting at Great Bromley rather than Great Bentley. But we were not disappointed finding that all but one of the churches we visited were open and manned. As a result we spent so long at each church chatting and looking up the history using the FECT's Chairman's excellent book "Essex: The Buildings of England" that we didn't manage to get as far as St Osyth having to turn round at Ramsey.

Other rides & strides

Once again a group of pilgrims joined together to cycle from Barking to Waltham Abbey with slight variations to avoid the banned routes during the Paralympic Games; a group of 40 strode from Bentley Common to Navestock where they were welcomed to a church buzzing with activity as part of the national Heritage Open Day; the Rainbow and Brownie packs at St Margaret Church, Stanford-le-Hope held a sponsored walk around the grounds; and Mr Harrington from Lindsell, Dunmow took to his bike for the 29th year and cycled 51 miles visiting 17 churches. We do enjoy hearing how you have all got on so please keep sending me your feedback and comments. Finally, a big welcome and thank-you to the team at Bocking URC who took part in the event for the first time and who were praised by a number of participants for their excellent bacon butties, home-made cakes and warm welcome.

Message from our Treasurer

There are many of you that send in your Remittance Forms and cheques with apologies for being late. Please don't worry – there is no deadline – we are happy to receive your money any time! But please could you encourage your riders/striders to ask their sponsors to complete the sponsorship forms giving their full name

and in legible writing. We have missed being able to claim almost £750 in Gift Aid because of poorly completed forms.

FECT Events – 2013

The FECT Events committee have put together a variety of events to keep you all busy throughout 2013, including a visit to the wonderful garden at Ulting Wick on 30th April, a talk by Dr Simon Heffer on 16th May and a Christmas Fair on 16th October at Hylands Park. For more information on any of these events, please go to our website: www.foect.org.uk/events.

Admin

A number of you write to say that you don't need certain forms or that you have a surplus of the yellow stickers so don't need any for next year. I appreciate all your efforts to keep costs down but unfortunately I cannot tailor the information packs to individual churches without increasing the costs! I suppose I could stop sending out information packs to churches who in some way haven't "registered" their interest in taking part in a particular year, but then I worry that there will be even fewer churches opening for the event and/or not displaying the Ride & Stride welcome poster. Your thoughts and comments are, as always, very welcome.

Thank you again for all your support.

Best wishes.

Fiona Nelmes
County Organiser
Tel: 01245 380365
Email: fionanelmes@lineone.net



For photos of the 2012 Ride & Stride visit the website: www.foect.org.uk

BARKING		AREA 1	£
Becontree West	St Thomas		255.00
Dagenham	St Cedd		226.00
			481.00

2013 Ride & Stride

Saturday 14th September

EPPING FOREST		AREA 2	£
Coopersale	St Albans		113.00
Stapleford Abbotts	St Mary		170.00
Theydon Garnon	All Saints		275.00
Waltham Abbey	Holy Cross/St Lawrence		40.00
			598.00

Area Organiser: Ray Clements
Tel: 01245 601298
Email: randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk



HARLOW		AREA 3	£
Harlow	Assumption of our Lady		375.10
Harlow	St Mary-at-Latton		394.00
Harlow	St Mary Magdelene		129.50
Hatfield Broad Oak	Our Lady of Lourds		125.00
Hatfield Heath	Holy Trinity		211.00
Little Hallingbury	St Mary Virgin		379.00
Sheering	St Mary		340.00
			1,953.60

Sheering, St Mary

A lovely day, met quite a lot of cyclists. It would be lovely to have more churches with people to welcome us. It's so nice to talk with people connected with that church.

HAVERING		AREA 4	£
North Ockendon	St Mary Magdelene		314.00
Romford	Trinity Methodist		245.00
Upminster	St Laurence		1,050.00
			1,609.00

Upminster, St Laurence

An enjoyable day, we were lucky with the weather, and the churches that were open were most rewarding.

Romford, Trinity Methodist

Our two cyclists were disappointed that only one church was open and that many of those on the list did not even show a notice about the Ride & Stride.

NEWHAM		AREA 5	£
Forest Gate	Emmanuel		351.50
Forest Gate	Methodist		203.50
Plaistow	Divine Compassion		940.27
Plaistow	Memorial Community Ch		527.00
			2022.27

Area Organiser: Philippa King
Tel: 020 7474 8243
Email: philippa.king@dsl.pipex.com



ONGAR		AREA 6	£
Blackmore	St Lawrence		325.00
Ongar	URC		125.00
Matching	St Mary		900.00
Moreton	St Mary Virgin		300.00
Stapleford Tawney	SS Michael/Mary		140.00
Stondon Massey	SS Peter/Paul		231.00
			2,021.00

Norton Mandeville, All Saints

We had no riders participating from our church but the church was manned all day to welcome and chat with our 7 visitors. Those on duty remarked how much they had enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of this lovely church – not forgetting the glorious weather.

Stondon Massey, St Peter & St Paul

Counting back I think I've only missed 3 years of cycling having moved to Stondon Massey 31 years ago and that was when I was either pregnant or had just given birth. All three of my children have completed rides on various bike seats and eventually on their own bikes, along with my husband who shared the bike seat arrangement when the children were young. [Anne Springate]



Area Organiser: Barbara Williams
Tel: 01277 364237 • Email: barbarawilliams40@talktalk.net

REDBRIDGE	AREA 7	£
Aldersbrook	St Gabriels	1,008.00
Barkingside	St George	175.00
Great Ilford	St Mary	200.00
Seven Kings	St John	180.00
Woodford	All Saints	125.00
		1,688.00

Barking to Waltham Abbey Pilgrimage

The ride this year repeated the pilgrimage route used last year approximately with a number of variations, the main being to avoid the banned routes during the Paralympic Games which had not quite finished on the date of the Ride & Stride. Twelve people joined us this year. It was a very good day out and it would have been good to have more participants. My feeling is that there is plenty of potential for the pilgrimage in future years. We discovered this year that the experience of visiting smaller churches is very warm and welcoming. Does anyone or group want to volunteer as a minstrel to accompany the cyclists along the way?

WALTHAM FOREST	AREA 8	£
Leytonstone	St John Baptist	403.00
		403.00

Leytonstone, St John the Baptist

Our amazing Church Warden has done it again – cycled round a whole Deanery. This year he chose Newham and raised more sponsorship than ever.

BRENTWOOD	AREA 9	£
Bentley Common	St Paul	722.00
Brentwood	St George the Martyr	140.00
Brentwood	St Thomas	2,027.00
Buttsbury	St Mary	260.00
Fryerning	St Mary Virgin	890.00
Great Warley	St Mary	201.50
Hutton	All Saints	500.00
Ingatestone	SS John/Erconwald	802.60
Ingatestone	SS Mary & Edmund	181.00
Kelvedon Hatch	St Nicholas	1,054.00
Mountnessing	St Giles	235.00
Navestock	St Thomas	225.00
Shenfield	St Mary Virgin	1,215.00
West Hordon	St Francis	50.00
		8,503.10

Kelvedon Hatch, St Nicholas

When calling at St Mary's, Shenfield, which was open and manned and with the offer of refreshments, two ladies emerged from the church and made comment about us with our bikes. I said that I assumed they were taking part and had merely hidden their bikes around the corner whilst they looked inside the church (it was obvious from dress and age that this was unlikely). After a little more banter with the visitors, we ended up being sponsored.

Brentwood, St George the Martyr

I find this event very interesting, as you meet various people with various accounts of their journeys; and of course people visit your church and become very interested.

Area Organiser: Beryl Clements

Tel: 01245 601298 • Email: randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk

BASILDON	AREA 10	£
Battlesbridge	Free Church	315.00
Billericay	Emmanuel	88.00
Billericay	St John Outwood/C	110.00
Bowers Gifford	St Margaret	115.00
Nevedon/Pitsea	SS Gabriels/Peters	152.00
		780.00

Area Organiser: Beryl Clements

Tel: 01245 601298

Email: randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk



CHELMSFORD NORTH	AREA 11a	£
Broomfield	SS Mary/Leonard	320.00
Chelmsford	All Saints	275.07
Chelmsford	Cathedral	580.00
Chelmsford	St Andrew	313.50
Chignal Smealey	St Nicholas	105.00
Great Waltham	SS Mary/Lawrence	199.00
Highwood	St Paul	270.00
Little Leighs	St John	600.00
Pleshey	Holy Trinity	435.00
Roxwell	St Michael/All Saints	188.00
Springfield	All Saints	772.00
Writtle	All Saints	100.00
		4,157.57

Springfield, All Saints

This year the weather provided everything. Sunshine and very light breezes, absolutely perfect cycling conditions and 20 years ago a circuit on the Essex by-ways around Dunmow and Felsted would have been ideal. Too many birthdays made this impracticable for me this year so I restricted myself to the local churches of the town. By the time I returned home, 25 churches and a surprising 23 miles almost all in heavy traffic and with too many traffic lights.

Chelmsford, St Andrew

It was so disappointing to have only 18 visitors this year. When I first started manning our church for the Ride & Stride we used to have up to a 100 visitors a year.

Area Organiser: Rose Bateman

Tel: 01245 324450 • Email: rmchen2670@yahoo.co.uk

CHELMSFORD SOUTH AREA 11b		£
Boreham	St Andrew	200.00
Danbury	St John Baptist	372.00
East Hanningfield	All Saints	50.10
Great Baddow	St Mary	1,090.00
Little Baddow	St Mary Virgin	703.00
Little Baddow	URC	145.00
Moulsham	St John Baptist	220.00
Moulsham Lodge	Methodist	20.00
Ramsden Bellhouse	St Mary	194.00
Sandon	St Andrew	451.00
South Hanningfield	St Peter	215.00
Stock	All Saints	50.00
Stock	Our Lady/St Joseph	150.00
Widford	St Mary/Holy Spirit	60.00
Woodham Ferrers	Congregational	100.00
		4,020.10

Chelmsford, Moulsham Lodge Methodist

A gentleman (89) had cycled all the way from Woodham Walter to visit our church! Well done! The weather was very hot so that is possibly why we only had 11 visitors – they either went out and did other things for the day, or perhaps found the weather exhausted them before they could reach us on the hills south of Chelmsford.

Howe Green, URC

It was good that we were visited again this year – at least 3 more people know that we exist! I hope it went well – it is hard when so many other charities have walk/cycle rides too.

Stock, All Saints

The weather was glorious and our "sitters" were entertained by a lively wedding with a Gospel choir. Our 29 visitors represented all age groups and included a Scout group.

Area Organiser: Robin Partis

Tel: 01245 477509 • Email: robinpartis@talktalk.net



MALDON & DENGIE AREA 12		£
Althorne	St Andrews	410.00
Burnham-on-Crouch	St Mary Virgin	100.50
Heybridge	SS George/Andrew	70.00
Maldon	All Saints/St Peter	60.00
Maldon	Methodist	222.00
Maldon/Mundon	St Mary	204.00
Purleigh	All Saints	285.50
Steeple	St Lawrence/All Saints	145.00
Tillingham	St Nicholas	362.00
Woodham Mortimer	St Margaret	165.00
Woodham Walter	St Michael	547.50
		2,571.50

Tillingham, St Nicholas

I enjoy this event. However the number of participants in our area is at a low level. But I notice nearly all churches have a fund raising/coffee morning event in combination with the church being open for the Ride & Stride. So please continue!

Maldon, United Reform

It was a joy to meet the active fundraisers while guiding and encouraging them on their journey, as each of them were keen to visit as many churches as they could within the immediate locality.

Althorne, St Andrew

We only had 2 visitors on bikes. But we had tea, cake and books all day in church to raise more funds for FECT so lots more customers for that too.

Area Organiser: Peter Manley

Tel: 01621 742947 • Email: peterb.manley@btinternet.com

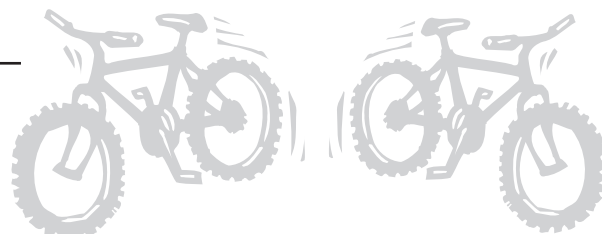
HADLEIGH AREA 13		£
Eastwood	St Lawrence/All Saints	370.00
Hadleigh	St Barnabas	700.00
Hadleigh	St James the Less	80.00
Leigh-on-Sea	St James the Great	218.60
Leigh-on-Sea	Union Congregational	100.00
		1,468.60

Hadleigh, St Barnabas

Award for best refreshments goes to St Luke's Prittlewell, closely followed by St Augustine's Thorpe Bay. Award for liveliest church on a Saturday goes to St Andrew, Shoebury. Terrible to see so many Southend Town Centre churches closed – a wasted opportunity.

Area Organiser: Terry Babbage

Tel: 01268 752997 • Email: terry.babbage@talktalk.net



SOUTHEND AREA 14		£
North Shoebury	St Mary	360.00
Prittlewell	St Stephens	249.00
South Shoebury	St Andrew/St Peter	830.00
Thorpe Bay	St Augustine	190.00
Westcliff-on-Sea	Bridgewater Drive Church	213.00
Westcliff-on-Sea	St Alban	40.00
Westcliff-on-Sea	St Andrew/St Peter	151.00
		2,033.00

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THURROCK	AREA 15	£
Aveley	SS Michael/Stephen	629.00
Bulphan	St Mary Virgin	260.00
Corringham	SS Mary/John	437.00
East Tilbury	St Catherine	140.00
Fobbing	St Michael	210.00
Grays/Thurrock	Team Ministry	138.00
Hordon-on-the-Hill	SS Peter/Paul	170.00
North Stifford	St Mary Virgin	130.00
Orsett	United Benefice	136.00
Stanford le Hope	St Margaret	175.40
		2,425.40



Area Organiser: Peter Craggs
 Tel: 01375 643749
 Email: craggpeter@hotmail.com



ROCHFORD	AREA 16	£
Ashingdon	St Andrew	794.00
Barling Magna/Lt Waker	All Saints/St Mary	225.00
Canewdon	St Nicholas	100.00
Great Wakering	St Nicholas	361.00
Hullbridge	St Thomas of Canterbury	115.00
Paglesham	St Peter	70.00
Rayleigh	Christchurch URC	540.00
Rettendon	All Saints	976.00
Stambridge	St Mary/All Saints	186.00
		3,367.00

Rayleigh, Christ Church URC

Our cyclists were aged 12-17 years. We are so pleased that they took part with so much enthusiasm.

Rayleigh, Holy Trinity

We were able to man the church as usual and supply much needed cold drinks for the hot and thirsty visitors.

WITHAM	AREA 17	£
Copford	St Michael/All Angels	220.00
Easthorpe	St Mary	285.00
Feering	All Saints	397.00
Great Totham	St Peter	1,016.00
Hatfield Peverel	St Andrew	302.00
Inworth	All Saints	100.00
Kelvedon	St Mary Virgin	686.00
Kelvedon	URC	356.00
Laver Breton	St Mary	800.00
Little Totham	All Saints	100.00
Little Wigborough	St Nicholas	150.00
Messing	All Saints	299.50
Tiptree	St Luke	653.00
Tiptree	URC	80.00
Tollesbury	St Mary	35.00
Wickham Bishops	St Bartholomew	415.00
Witham	Evangelical	111.00
Witham	Holy Family/All Saints	283.00
Witham	URC	7.00
		6,295.50

Little Totham, All Saints

We so appreciate the cycle songsters from Brentwood and we also had another group of singers plus organ playing – it was lovely. Our numbers were very much up this year on previous years – for quite a long time. This might have been through publicity, good weather or a countrywide interest in cycling. May it continue. The cycle Saturday coincides with Heritage Weekend when our church is also open. This is also very good for us as a church and is good for all the visitors.

Witham, Evangelical

Good welcome at those churches which were open, especially Bocking URC where we were served bacon Butties and home-made cakes (at 2.40pm – long after lunch time). A really friendly bunch and no payment expected as we were doing the cycling. Christian love in action!

Hatfield Peverel, St Andrew

Once again a lovely day out visiting churches in the Braintree area. The churches that were open gave the riders a very warm welcome and many were happy to guide people around the church. However, special mention must be made regarding the "meeters and greeters" at Bocking URC who spent the day preparing delicious goodies. Thank you it was worth the climb up the hill. See you next year.

Area Organiser: John Bagley
 Tel: 01206 330145 • Email: thebagleys@talk21.com

HINCKFORD	AREA 18	£
Alphamstone	St Barnabas	195.00
Bellchamp St Otten	All Saints/St Ethelbert	360.00
Borley	Parish Church	87.00
Bulmer	St Andrew	308.00
Colne Engaine	St Andrew	273.00
Earls Colne	St Andrew	220.00
		<i>continued over page</i>

Earls Colne, St Andrew

One of the best days, weather wise, I've ever known for the cycle ride. All the more amazing considering the summer we've (not) had. Again a disappointing number of visitors to Earls Colne church. All the churches I visited in Essex had very few visitors. What a contrast with the Sudbury churches who'd all had dozens of visitors by the early afternoon. I know the roads round our way are dangerous for cycling (Halstead is a nightmare) – but so is cycling round Sudbury on a Saturday. I don't know what the answer is.

HINCKFORD (continued)	AREA 18	£
Gestingthorpe	St Mary	190.00
Greenstead Green	St James	541.00
Halstead	Methodist	20.00
Halstead	St Andrew	96.00
Halstead	URC	268.00
Helion Bumpstead	St Andrew	120.00
Little Maplestead	St John	123.00
Middleton	All Saints	40.00
Pebmarsh	St John the Baptist	110.00
Pentlow	SS Gregory/George	90.00
Sible Heddingham	Baptist Fellowship	80.00
Sible Heddingham	St Peter	312.00
Steeple Bumpstead	St Mary	190.00
Twinstead	St John Evangelist	140.00
White Colne	St Andrew	50.00
Wickham St Paul	All Saints	200.10
		4,013.10

Birdbrook, St Augustine

Our church was open all day for tea, coffee, squash, biscuits. We had 5 visitors but no riders from our church. However we used the day as a "cleaning day". How we sparkle!

Belchamp Otten, St Ethelbert

I had another very enjoyable day cycling round all the churches, even though it was a very hot day. I did find that fewer churches were open this year – which was a shame, as it's always nice to be greeted by someone and a cool drink, rather than a closed door.

Alphamstone, St Barnabas

We were hugely impressed by the age range of participants and the distances some people had cycled!

Gestingthorpe, St Mary the Virgin

Our single participant reported happily that only one of the churches he visited was closed.



BRAINTREE	AREA 19	£
Bocking	Congregational	227.00
Bocking	St Peter	275.00
Bocking	URC	163.45
Braintree	Baptist	900.00
Braintree	Christchurch	316.00
Finchingfield	St John	100.00
Rayne	All Saints	126.00
Shalford	St Andrew	171.00
		2,278.45

Bocking, URC

This was the first time we had participated in the Ride & Stride and everyone involved found it a really lovely experience. It was a lovely sunny day, which helped, and the air seemed full of friendliness and joy! At our church, too, a happy time was had by all: welcoming visitors, serving refreshments and enjoying talking to those who came.

Braintree, Christ Church

I enjoyed sitting in the church from 10am to 5.25pm welcoming the energetic ones. It was well worth keeping Christ Church open as I know from experience how disappointing it is to find so many closed.

Area Organiser: Roy Radford

Tel: 01245 256274 • Email: r.radford1@btinternet.com

COLCHESTER	AREA 20	£
Colchester	All Saints/St Cedds	30.00
Colchester	Christchurch URC	283.00
Colchester	Methodist	140.00
Colchester	SS Anne/Andrew/Matthew	214.00
Colchester	St Barnabas	508.00
Colchester	St Botolph	258.50
Colchester	St James the Great	373.60
Colchester	St James the Less	208.00
Colchester	St Stephen	188.00
East Mersea	St Edmund	837.00
Lexdon	St Leonard	623.00
Peldon	St Mary Virgin	260.00
Rowhedge	St Lawrence	581.00
West Mersea	SS Peter/Paul	607.00
		5,111.10

West Mersea, St Peter & St Paul

Great day again this year. Visited 32 churches and cycled 86 miles which was a record for me. [Geoff Sexton]

Colchester, St Barnabas

This event is always such a joy, meeting new people as we visit each church. We also met long forgotten friends, in my case from school. Our one rider made us laugh when he told us how he spent some time looking for a church on his map (it turned out to be an old map) only to realise that the church no longer existed but a block of flats stood now on that site. A tiring but happy day all round.



2013 Ride & Stride
Saturday 14th September

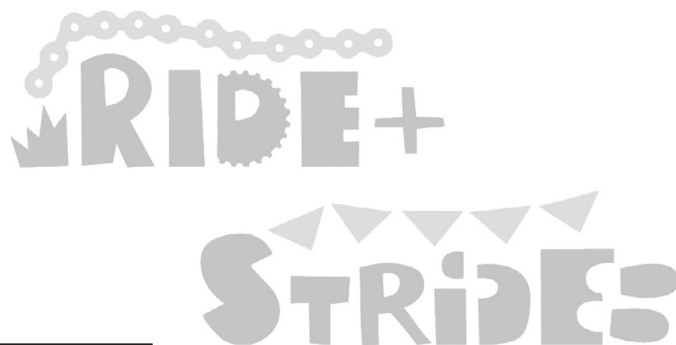
DEDHAM & TEY	AREA 22	£
Aldham	Parish Church	527.80
Boxted	St Peter	60.00
Chappel	St Barnabas	220.00
Eight Ash Green	Methodist	175.00
Great Horkesley	All Saints	90.00
Langham	St Mary Virgin	185.00
Little Horkesley	SS Peter/Paul	270.00
Little Tey	St James the Less	180.00
Marks Tey	St Andrew	355.00
Mount Bures	St John Baptist	190.00
Stanway	St All Brights	283.00
West Bergholt	St Mary Virgin	189.00
Wormingford	St Andrew	742.00
		3,466.80

Great Horkesley, All Saints

Poor turn out again and we only had one rider. Sign of the times with ageing attendance at church unfortunately. Still we do try.

Area Organiser: Sarah Drain

Tel: 01206 212342 • Email: sarahdrain00@hotmail.com



DUNMOW/STANSTED	AREA 23	£
Barnston	Evangelical Mission	107.00
Barnston	St Andrew	92.00
Broxted	Five Parishes	1,181.00
Farnham	St Mary Virgin	350.00
Felsted	Crix Green Mission	55.00
Felsted	Holy Cross	210.00
Great Bardfield	St Mary	303.00
Great Dunmow	St Anne Line	388.00
Great Dunmow	St Mary Virgin	305.00
Great Dunmow	URC New street	30.00
Little Canfield	All Saints	155.00
Little Dunmow	Priory Church	232.00
Lindsell	St Mary Virgin	370.00
Little (Bardfield) Saling	SS Peter/Paul	200.00
Margaret Roding	St Margaret	40.00
Stansted	St John	347.00
Stansted	St Mary Virgin	110.00
Stansted	Quaker Meeting House	90.00
Stebbing	St Mary	267.00
		4,832.00

Great Bardfield, St Mary the Virgin

We had a fair number of happy visitors on the day – grateful for a warm welcome, refreshments and a loo. I met some very kind and helpful people when my bicycle chain got stuck in the middle of the countryside between Thaxted and Tilty and they provided a large screwdriver and muscle power to free it, then washing facilities for my greasy hands. Very kind and much appreciated. The beautiful countryside and stunning churches were a joy – and the marvellous team of cyclists who raced up Great Easton hill, when I had had to succumb to walking up, amazed me with their enthusiasm, fun and fitness!

White Roding, St Martin

The two who came the next day walked (one was in a wheelchair) and had not had time to complete a visit to all the "Roding" churches, as pushing the wheelchair cross country was hard work!

Dunmow, St Anne Line

James, Annabel and Freddie Lineham scootered round the churches and were joined by Anna Neale aged 6 who had moved in 6 weeks next door to them. They arrived when there was a wedding on and the bride and groom were encouraging from the church. A few of our visitors had a lovely surprise.

Stansted, Quaker Meeting House

Three of us (all well into our 60s) had a thoroughly enjoyable day cycling around the Essex countryside and visiting so many lovely churches.

Area Organiser: Janet Hollis

Tel: 01279 812073 • Email: janhollis@btinternet.com

HARWICH	AREA 24	£
Ardleigh	St Mary Virgin	307.00
Bradfield	St Lawrence	150.00
Dovercourt	All Saints	501.00
Dovercourt	Central	229.00
Elmstead Market	St Anne/Laurence	315.00
Harwich	St Nicholas	448.00
Harwich & Dovercourt	Our Lady Queen of Heav	282.00
Lawford	St Mary Virgin	294.00
Little Bentley	St Mary Virgin	42.00
Manningtree	Methodist	485.00
Ramsey/Little Oakley	St Michael/All Angels	81.00
Wix	St Mary Virgin	213.00
Wrabness	All Saints	181.00
		3,528.00

Dovercourt, All Saints

Anyone knowing Church Lane, Lawford will understand our enjoyment of freewheeling downhill followed by a supreme effort pedalling furiously uphill to the church. This year I was the front rider, wearing a baseball cap, battened down. As I achieved Mach 1 the hat went hurtling into the sky and Russ travelling in similar mode downhill, saw it rush towards him at a closing speed, difficult to predict. Lie a speedway professional, he skidded to a halt before impact of hat/bicycle/rider and retrieved the errant object. It could have been worse, my hairpiece remained adhered to my head!

Ramsey, Methodist

More people and some new faces came this year. We served apple pie and custard and custard tart biscuits, tea, coffee and cold drinks.

Area Organiser: Neil Stedman

Tel: 01255 425857 • Email: ncstedman@talktalk.net

SAFFRON WALDEN	AREA 26	£
Debden	St Mary Virgin	275.00
Great Chesterford	All Saints	155.00
Littlebury	Holy Trinity	1,321.00
Little Chishill	St Nicholas	50.00
Little/Great Sampford	SS Michael/Mary	185.00
Newport	St Mary Virgin	160.00
Quendon/Rickling	All Saints	122.00
Saffron Walden	URC	265.00
Thaxted	Parish Church	480.00
Thaxted	URC	400.00
Wenden Lofts	Hamlet Church	281.00
Widdington	St Mary Virgin	296.10
Wimbish	All Saints	260.00
		4,250.10



Saffron Walden, URC

When we arrived at the Church soon after 9.30am there was a note on the church door to say that our first visitor had arrived at 7.39am!

Littlebury, Holy Trinity

Pau Hobb, who is more used to riding a Boris bike, took up the challenge to cycle the hilly lanes in the Saffron Walden deanery visiting 40 church visits on his 60-mile route. He started out at 7.20am and was back in Littlebury at about 5.30pm. He said: "It is an interesting way of seeing some of the churches and I'd highly recommend people pay a visit to some." He thought the most outstanding were the hamlet church at Wenden Lofts, St Mary the Virgin at Debden and Holy Trinity Littlebury – but then he may be a little biased.

Great Sampford, St Michael

I sat outside the church basking in the sun, watching a wedding take place at the Baptist church opposite. We didn't have many visitors, but they were all friendly and the time passed quite quickly. One gentleman riding a bike salvaged from a skip told me about cycling over the Alps. All in all I was pleased to be comfortably lazing at home!

Area Organiser: Joan Holley
Tel: 01371 830902

ST OSYTH	AREA 27	£
Brightlingsea	The United	370.00
Clacton-on-Sea	St James	270.00
Clacton-on-Sea	St Paul	441.00
Frinton-on-Sea	Parish Church	1,520.00
Great Bentley	St Mary	223.00
Holland-on-Sea	St Bartholomew	262.00
Little Clacton	St James	801.50
St Osyth	St Peter/Paul	210.00
Thorpe le Soken	St Michael	10.00
Walton-on-the-Naze	Emmanuel	86.00
Walton-on-the-Naze	Parish/All Saints	270.00
		4,463.50

Little Clacton, St James

Out long time rider has been taking part from the beginning, only missing a year occasionally. All felt it was a pity that more churches and chapels were not open, though a few had put out their register sheet. The welcome from those open was much appreciated.

Walton-on-the-Naze, All Saints

We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the bike rider and this was the best weather we have ever had while participating. Previously we lived in Suffolk and we do miss the churches in Essex being manned or at least leaving the booking-in form out. It was also a pity that we saw so few taking part, so perhaps there should be more publicity in the local papers or on Radio Essex.

Area Organiser: Neil Stedman
Tel: 01255 425857 • Email: ncstedman@talktalk.net

RIDE + STRIDES

2013

Saturday 14th September

Reg. Charity No. 236033

Why not join the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, for a small annual sum

Contact our membership secretary:

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