

OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

A Million in the Millennium?!!

Can the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Cycle Ride, in its 15th year, pass the Million mark? The record sum raised in 1999 of £86,200 brought the total over that period to £928,971, so it does seem to be a realistic and reachable target.

In the past year the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust has given a total of £89,500 to 39 Anglican Churches, one Roman Catholic Church, two Methodist Chapels, one United Reformed Church and a Wesleyan Reformed Church, with grants ranging from £500 to £7,500. Among those was a grant to St. Simon and St. Jude, Milton-u-Wychwood. It also made a special millennium grant to Dorchester Abbey for the restoration of the effigies.

Ride or Stride is our new "catch phrase" as we are keen to encourage more people to walk. We would also like to highlight the role of those who welcome visitors and invite them to be sponsored, so those churches and chapels which do not have any *StRiders* can also have the opportunity to raise funds for themselves and for the Trust. These welcomers are very important to the success of the ride, and it would be good if they could be part of the fund raising effort too.

So oil your chains, polish up those walking boots or get your pens poised and welcoming smile ready for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust's **'Ride or Stride' on Saturday 9th September**. Sponsorship forms are available in the local churches and from the following:

Ascott-u-Wychwood	Joan Pratley	831090
Fifield with Idbury	Muriel Brooke	832841
Milton Baptist Church	Nick Gray	831783
St. Simon & St. Jude, Milton	Vi Miles	831442
Shipton-u-Wychwood	Mike Brooks	830014

SHIPTON MILLENNIUM FETE 8 July 2000

Yet again the weather was kind to us. There was rain all round but it conveniently avoided Shipton. What a difference it makes! This year's fete was very well supported by everyone. Thank you to those who took part and especially to the dancers, the fancy dressed, the Noddy car, the Austin 7, the Bentley, Badger and to Tess Lawrence for showing us how with patience and time a dog can be trained. I hope the stall holders who were raising money for their own organisations were happy with their takings. The proceeds from the other stalls and sideshows came to over £800 which will go towards hall improvements. Thank you to everyone for making our millennium fete a memorable occasion.

Together with many hard-working and loyal helpers I have organised eight fetes and have finally used up all my ideas, enthusiasm and energy. It would be a pity not to have a village fete as it is so well supported so if there is anyone who would like to help please would they contact me to discuss what is involved.

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