

County Life



Children re-live Highwaymen tales

Tales of highwaymen and epic journeys were re-lived for children from Normanton-on-Trent School, when they helped launch a new Trail for Churches on the Old Great North Road.

Pupils from St Matthew's Church of England Primary School played a key part in the event, complete with costumes, poems and pictures on a Highwaymen theme presented to parents and guests at the St Matthew's Church at the launch in February.

A real carriage and horses pulled up outside the church offering short rides to groups of the children and staff from the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, read Highwaymen tales to some of the children.

The new trail is the third in a series of trail leaflets launched as part of the Church History Project, which has included churches on the Robin Hood trail and a Stained Glass trail of

Nottinghamshire churches.

'This new trail leaflet offers people a new guide to explore some of the hidden gems in our historic churches,' says Church History Project coordinator, Heather Sirrel. 'It's amazing to see the fascinating history that lies along the ancient stretch of the road that was once a main route from London to Edinburgh – before it was re-designed as the A1. It is a road with roots in coaching inns, highwaymen, royal pageants and raiding cavalry, which all forms a rich history linked with the 19 churches on the trail.'

Supporters, researchers and volunteers connected with the Church History Project and the Open Churches project, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Nottingham, also attended the event.

The trail leaflet, which is being distributed to tourism centres, libraries

and other outlets, includes a map and brief information on each church and its history ranging from St Giles Balderton, near Newark in the south as far as St Helena, Austerfield, in the north of the county.

People can choose to follow the trail as a day trip or can dip in and out to visit a few of the churches at a time.



The leaflet can now be viewed on line with other information and trails at: www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk •

Cycle marathon raises funds for soldiers and families



Ten volunteers soldiers from the 73 Engineer Regiment based at Chilwell have cycled the equivalent of 6,000 kilometres – the distance between Nottingham and Camp Bastion in Afghanistan – to raise £20,000 for the soldiers' charity, the Army Benevolent Fund.

The soldiers were due to cycle for eight hours a day for six days using cycle machines set up in five different cities and towns in the region. They covered at least 1,000km per day to reach their goal using five cycle machines. They were waved off by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham from the city's Old Market Square on 1 March.

'Men and women are putting their lives on the line to defend

us and our country,' says Lieutenant Colonel David Jones, Commanding Officer of 73 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers). 'The Army Benevolent Fund provides the best possible support available on a daily basis to soldiers who are injured and to the families of those who are killed. It also offers lifetime support to soldiers, former soldiers and their families.'

'The fund also looks to the future, finding the best ways to give medical, technical and financial support so that the men and women who sacrifice so much for us have the best possible outlook for the future.'

'This will be a challenging but rewarding event, raising much needed funds for an outstanding and worthwhile ▶